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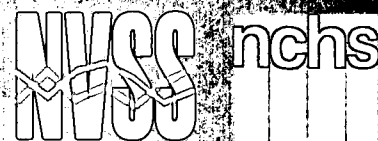
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ABSTRACT

This report presents information on trends and variations in nonmarital childbearing in the United States and includes information on the factors that have contributed to the recent changes. Data are presented for 1940-1999 with emphasis on the trends in the 1990s. Data are presented on a variety of measures of nonmarital childbearing, including numbers, rates, and percents of births to unmarried women. Most of the data are from the National Vital Statistics System, but additional data are from the National Survey of Family Growth, the U.S. Census Bureau, and other national surveys. After rising dramatically in the half century from 1940 to 1990, out-of-wedlock childbearing leveled off, or slowed its rate of increase, in the 1990s. Many factors contributing to the long-term changes, as well as more recent trends are described. These include changes in marriage patterns, sexual activity, contraceptive use, and abortion. The experience of the United States is put into context with data on nonmarital childbearing for other industrialized countries. Possible future trends in out-of-wedlock births are considered in the context of current population and birth patterns. (Contains 9 tables, 24 figures, and 37 references.) (Author/SLD)

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Nonmarital Childbearing in the United States, 1940-99

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Abstract

Objectives—This report presents information on trends and variations in nonmarital childbearing in the United States and includes information on the factors that have contributed to the recent changes. Data are presented for 1940-99 with emphasis on the trends in the 1990's.

Methods—Data in this report are presented on a variety of measures of nonmarital childbearing, including numbers, rates, and percents of births to unmarried women. Most of the data is from the National Vital Statistics System. Additional data explaining the trends shown are from the National Survey of Family Growth, the U.S. Census Bureau, and other national surveys. Data are presented and interpreted principally in charts and related tables.

Results—After rising dramatically during the half century from 1940 to 1990, out-of-wedlock childbearing leveled off, or slowed its rate of increase, in the 1990's. Many factors contributing to the long-term changes as well as more recent trends are described. These include changes in marriage patterns, sexual activity, contraceptive use, and abortion. The experience of the United States is put into context with data on nonmarital childbearing for other industrialized countries. Possible future trends in out-of-wedlock births are considered in the context of current population and birth patterns.

Keywords: nonmarital births • marital status • birth rates • out-of-wedlock births • pregnancy and marital status

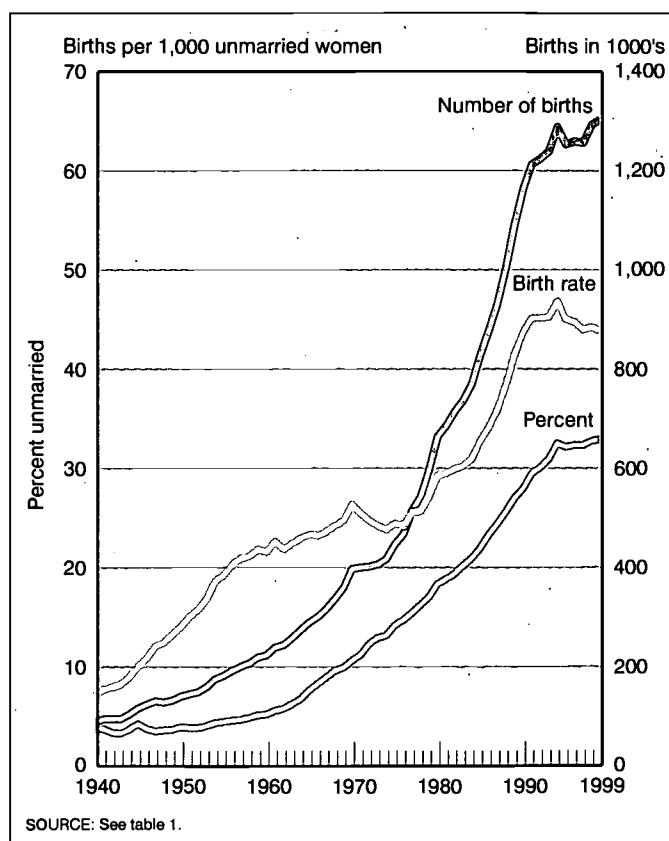


Figure 1. Number of births, birth rate, and percent of births to unmarried women: United States, 1940-99

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Introduction

After rising dramatically during the half century from 1940 to 1990, out-of-wedlock childbearing leveled off, or slowed its rate of increase, during the 1990's. Trends observed during the 1990's

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differ slightly depending on which of three key measures of out-of-wedlock childbearing is used. This report presents information on the trends and variations in nonmarital childbearing among different population groups and updates a detailed chartbook published in 1995, *The Demography of Out-Of-Wedlock Childbearing* (1). Many factors have contributed to the long-term changes as well as the more recent trends, including changes in marriage patterns, sexual activity, contraceptive use, and abortion. The experience of the United States is put into context with data on nonmarital childbearing for other industrialized countries.

Much of the data in this report for the United States are for 1998, the most recent year for which detailed birth statistics are available (2). However, wherever possible, birth data have been updated for 1999, based on preliminary statistics (3). In all but two States, births to unmarried women are identified by a question on the birth certificate asking for the mother's marital status. For Michigan and New York, the mother's marital status is inferred from other information on the birth certificate. Data from other sources are collected periodically and therefore vary in recency. Data underlying the charts in this report are presented in the detailed tables (1 through 9) that follow the charts. Detailed information on sources is presented in the Technical notes.

Trends in the 1990's

The **number of births to unmarried women** increased from 1.17 to 1.30 million between 1990 and 1999, a far slower average increase than in the previous decade (a little over 1 percent annually compared with nearly 6 percent annually during the 1980's) (**figure 1, tables 1 and 2**). The total number of nonmarital births rose just 8 percent from 1990 to 1997, but then rose an additional 3 percent in 1998 and 1 percent in 1999.

Information on the number of births is useful because it tells us about the absolute level of nonmarital births and the extent to which babies begin their lives with a single mother or one who is not legally married to her partner. It is also useful for tracking and anticipating future needs for health, social, and financial supports for single parents.

The **birth rate for unmarried women** increased from 43.8 births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years to 46.9 between 1990 and 1994, and then declined. By 1999 it had fallen to 43.9, essentially the same as in 1990 (**figure 1, tables 1 and 3**). The birth rate measures the likelihood that an unmarried woman will give birth in a given year. Thus, it is adjusted for variations in the number of unmarried women.

The **percent of births to unmarried women** increased from 28.0 percent in 1990 to 33.0 percent in 1999 (**figure 1, tables 1, 4**). Most of the increase was in the early 1990's. Since 1994 the percent has been essentially stable at 32–33 percent. Like the number of births, the percent of births to unmarried women is also useful for evaluating the proportion of births that occur in single-parent settings, and the potential need for social, health, and other services. Because the population estimates needed to compute the birth rate are often available only at the national level, the number and percent of births to unmarried women are frequently the only measures available for monitoring trends and variations in nonmarital births at the State and local levels.

Changes in reporting marital status during the 1990's

National trends in nonmarital births from 1988–89 through 1993 are affected by substantial underreporting of these births in two large States, Michigan and Texas. If births to unmarried women had been

completely reported during those years, the trends would likely have suggested an earlier and more gradual peak in out-of-wedlock births—in the early 1990's—rather than the steep increase in 1994 as the data indicate. Readers may wish to focus on trends before 1988–89 and after 1993, when reporting of marital status is believed to be essentially complete in Michigan and Texas. This topic is discussed in detail in the Technical notes.

In 1995 California changed its procedures for inferring the mother's marital status on the birth certificate. The change affected births to Hispanic mothers, taking into account the naming conventions for this population, especially the use of hyphenated surnames. Nonmarital births to Hispanic women in California fell about 17 percent from 1994 to 1995, but nonmarital births declined for other race and ethnic origin groups as well (down 6 percent for non-Hispanic women as a group), indicating that the drop in out-of-wedlock births to Hispanic women did not result from the methodological change alone.

Additional discontinuities in the data were introduced in 1997 when California, Nevada, and New York City changed their reporting procedures for marital status, and in 1998 when Connecticut changed procedures. New York City strengthened its inferential procedures to base the determination of marital status on the most reliable indicators, namely the absence of the father's name or the presence of a paternity acknowledgment; the comparison of parental surnames was discontinued. The reporting change in 1997 resulted in fewer nonmarital births in all population groups, although there was a greater impact on births to women aged 30 years and over and to non-Hispanic white and Asian or Pacific Islander women (see Technical notes).

The changes in 1997 and 1998 in the other States had little impact on the national totals, which is the focus of this report although the effects differed by age; the changes are described in detail in the Technical notes. It is important to note that as a result of the changes implemented by California, Connecticut, Nevada, and New York City, their birth data by marital status are much more accurate.

Long-term trends

Looking now at the half century beginning 1940, we see that the **numbers** of births rose thirteenfold between 1940 and 1994, from 89,500 in 1940 to 1.17 million in 1990 (tables 1 and 2); the increase over this period averaged more than 5 percent per year. The rate of increase has slowed considerably in recent years (figure 1, tables 1 and 2). The number increased 3 percent from 1997 to 1998, a relatively large single-year increase; most of that rise was associated with the increasing number of unmarried women (see next section). The increase from 1998 to 1999 was just 1 percent. Birth rates, the other factor influencing the number of nonmarital births, have stabilized and in some cases declined in the 1990's (**figures 1, 2, and table 3**).

The **birth rate for unmarried women** increased more than 6 times from 1940 (7.1 births to unmarried women per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15–44 years) to 1990 (43.8) (figures 1, 2, and table 1). The increase in the birth rate was most rapid during the late 1970's through the 1980's, when the rate increased about 4 percent per year. Between 1994 and 1999, the rate has declined about 6 percent overall.

The **percent of births to unmarried women** rose almost without interruption from 1940 (3.8 percent) to 1994 (32.6 percent) (figure 1, tables 1 and 4). From 1994 to 1999 there was little change in this measure; it was 33.0 percent in 1999.

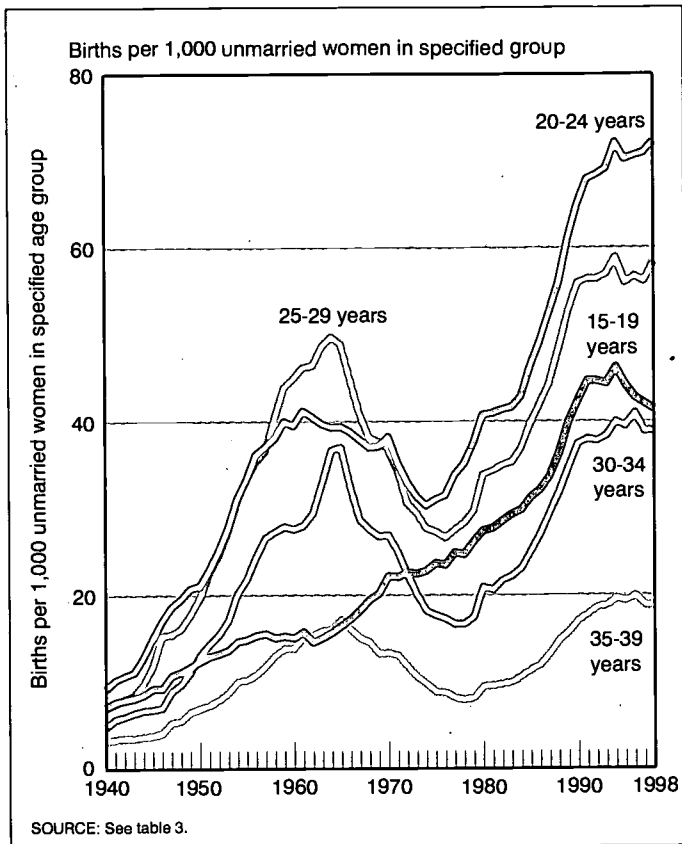


Figure 2. Birth rates for unmarried women by age: United States, 1940-98

Key factors driving the trends

The two key factors contributing to the **rising numbers of out-of-wedlock births** through 1990 were the increased birth rates for unmarried women and the steep increases in the **number of unmarried women** in the childbearing ages (**figures 2 and 3, tables 1, 3, and 5**). In other words, the combination of more unmarried women in the population and higher propensities for unmarried women to give birth produced substantial increases in the number of out-of-wedlock births.

The long-term trend in birth rates for unmarried women has been cyclical for most age groups, except the rates for teenagers (**figure 2, table 3**). Rates for unmarried teenagers rose essentially without interruption, increasing from 7 per 1,000 aged 15-19 years in 1940 to 46 in 1994, before declining 11 percent through 1998. Rates for other age groups generally rose during the 1940's, 1950's, and early 1960's, declined sharply during the late 1960's and 1970's and then increased steeply during the 1980's and early 1990's before stabilizing after 1994. For example, from 1980 to 1994, the rates for women in their twenties increased about 75 percent, whereas rates for women in their thirties rose at least 90 percent. Since 1994 these rates have changed very little. As noted above, it is likely that nonmarital birth rates by age increased gradually in the 1990's with a somewhat artificial peak in 1994, due to substantially incomplete reporting of nonmarital births in Michigan and Texas from 1988-89 through 1993.

Changes in population size are also important in accounting for changes in nonmarital births. The numbers of women in the childbearing population (defined as 15-44 years) increased substantially from the mid

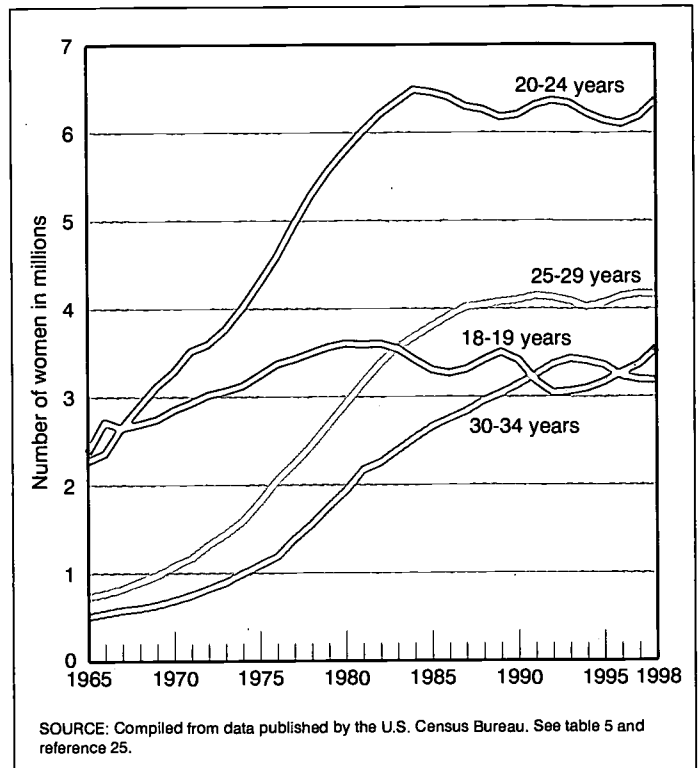


Figure 3. Number of unmarried women by age: United States, 1965-98

1960's until the early 1980's, reflecting the impact of the baby boom generation (**figure 4, table 6**). Moreover, increasing proportions of women and men postponed marriage beginning in the mid-1960's, a trend that shows no sign of abating. For example, between 1965 and 1998, the percent unmarried among women aged 20-24 years more than doubled from 33 to 73 percent, and more than tripled among women aged 25-29 years, rising from 13 to 45 percent (**figure 5, table 7**). Increases in the percent unmarried were similarly steep among women in their thirties. The proportion of teenagers who are unmarried has always been very high, but even that proportion has increased; among women aged 18-19 years, the percent unmarried rose from 74 in 1965 to 94 in 1998. As a result of these changes in population size and the timing of marriage, there were dramatic increases in the numbers of unmarried women in these age groups through the early- to mid-1980's (**figure 3, table 5**). During the 1990's, the population of unmarried women has continued to increase, with the increase in the late 1990's fueled mainly by growth in the teenaged population.

The **percent of all births to unmarried women** rose steeply through the early 1990's because of four concurrent trends (**figures 1, 6, and tables 1 and 4**). First are the increases in the number and proportion of unmarried women as more and more women from the baby boom generation postponed marriage (**figures 4, 5, and tables 5 and 7**); second, the increases in birth rates for unmarried women of all ages (**figure 2, table 3**); third, a decrease in birth rates for married women (**figure 7, table 8**); and fourth, a decline in the number of married women in age groups 18-29 years (**table 5**). Thus, the **percent** of all births that were to unmarried women rose because births to unmarried women increased while births to married women declined. Increases in the proportion of out-of-wedlock births have been dramatic for all age groups (**figure 6, table 4**), but the pace of increase has slowed

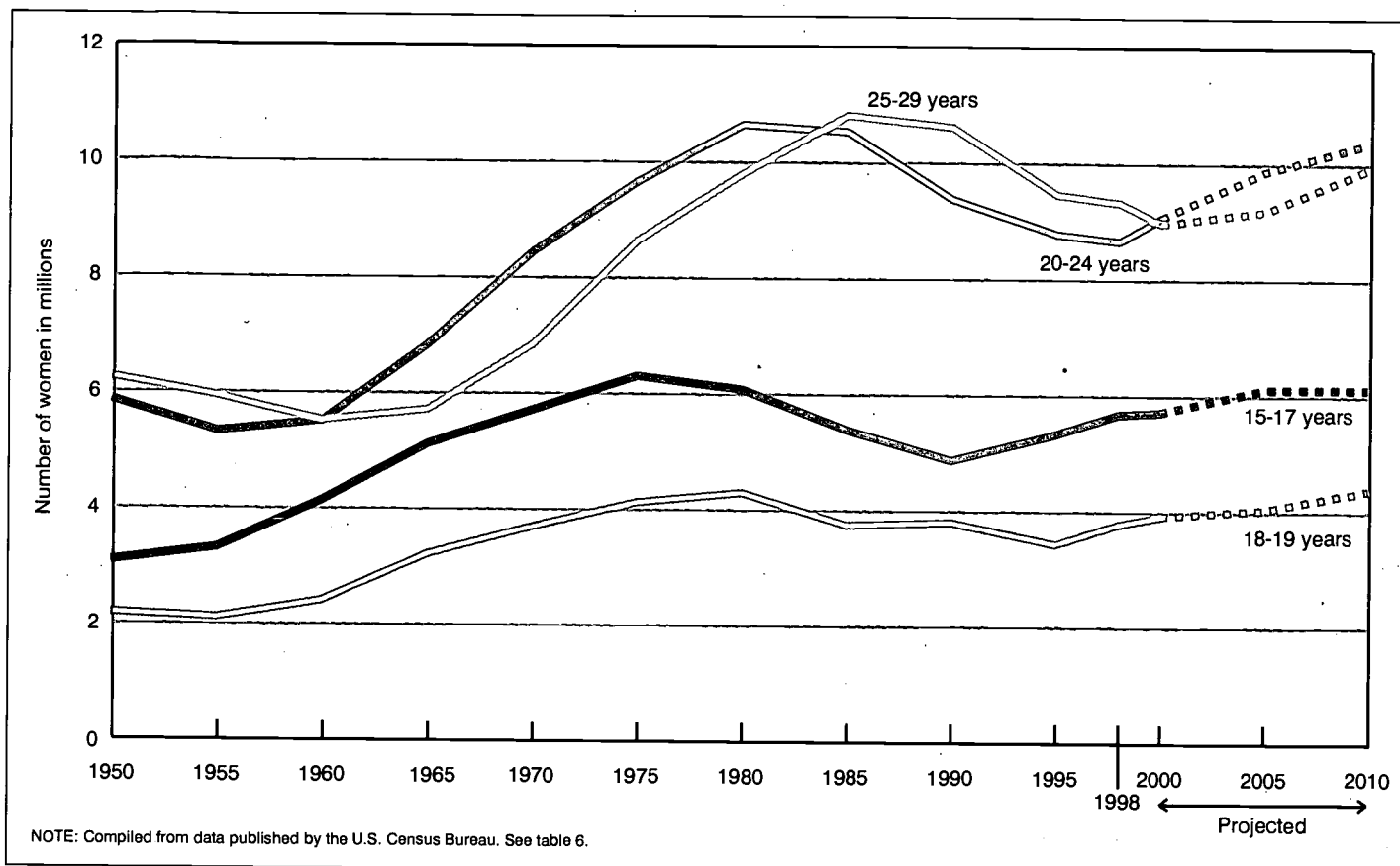


Figure 4. Number of women by age: United States, 1950-98, and projections to 2010

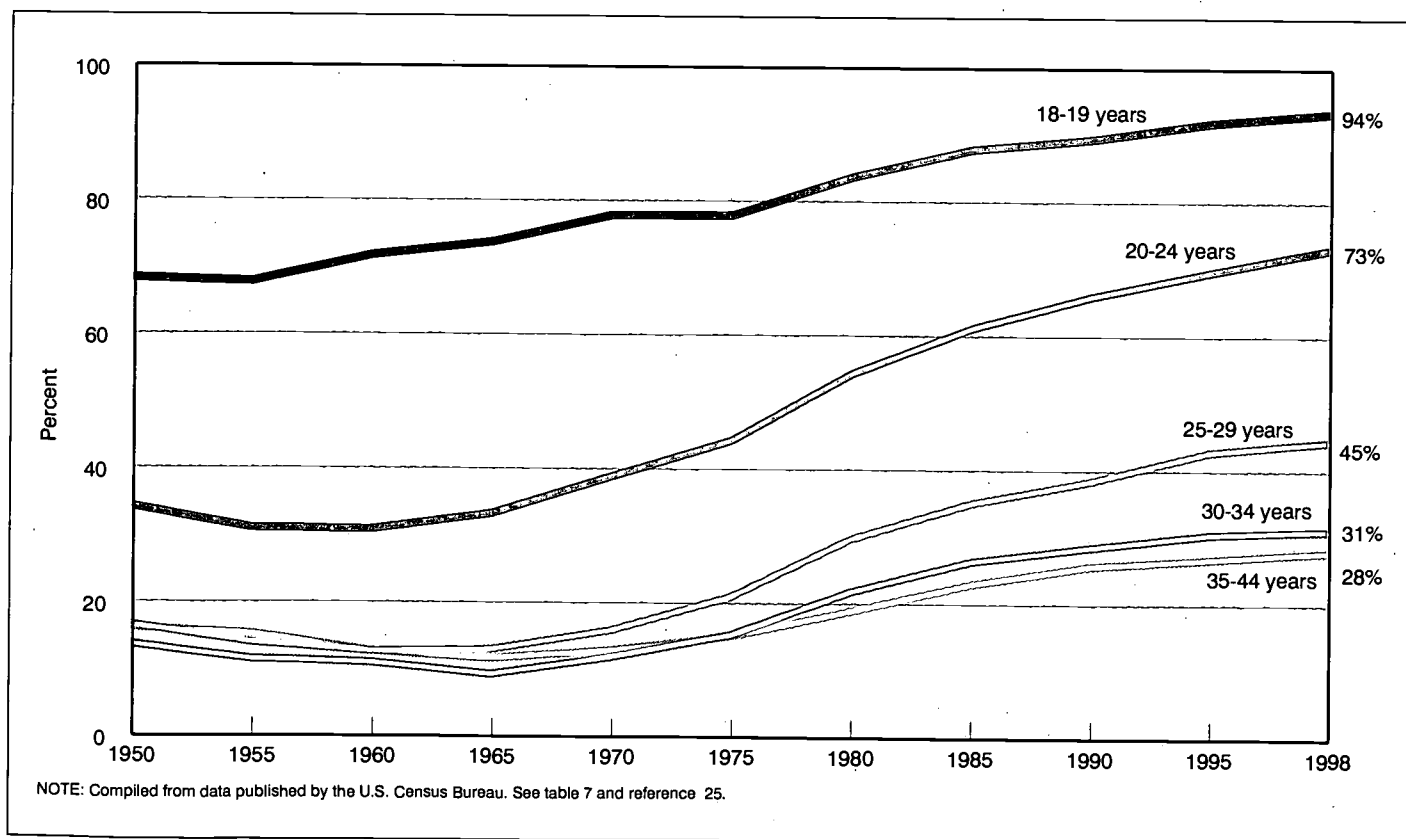


Figure 5. Percent unmarried, female population by age: United States, 1950-98

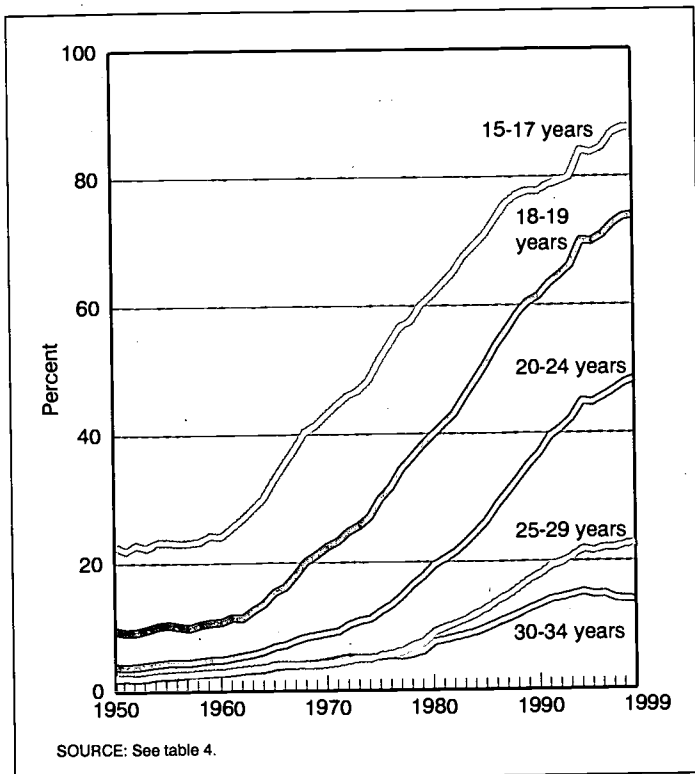


Figure 6. Percent of births in each age group to unmarried women: United States, 1950-99

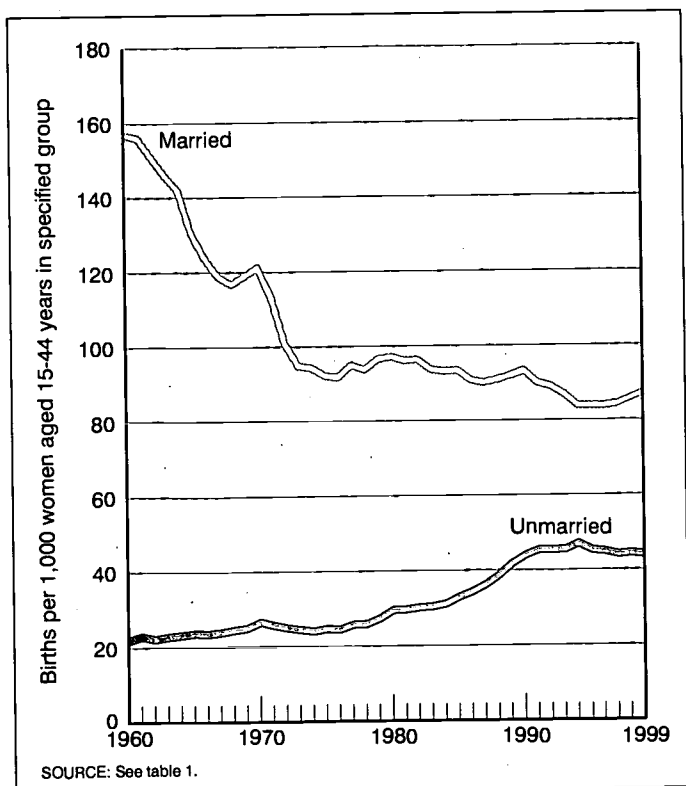


Figure 7. Birth rates for married and unmarried women: United States, 1960-99

in the 1990's. The percent of births to unmarried women has changed very little in the mid- to late-1990's, reflecting the offsetting effects of changes in the key factors. The size of the population of unmarried women in the reproductive ages continues to increase and the married female population continues to fall, but birth rates for unmarried women have stabilized and rates for married women have risen.

Changes in birth rates for married women played an important role in the explosive increase in the percent of births to unmarried women through the early 1990's. Because married women account for most births, a decline in marital fertility can lead to an increase in the percent of births that are out of wedlock, even if birth rates for unmarried women change little or decline. From 1960 to the late 1980's, the birth rate for married women fell more than 40 percent (figure 7, tables 1 and 8).

Variations by race and ethnicity

Nonmarital birth rates differ considerably by race and Hispanic origin. Reliable rates can be computed for white, black, and Hispanic women; populations by marital status and race have not been available to compute similar rates for other race and ethnicity groups except in census years. Until the early 1990's, rates for white women included births to Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women because the necessary detailed population denominators were not available. Rates have been computed separately for Hispanic women since 1990, and non-Hispanic women, since 1994.

Rates for unmarried black women have historically been higher than for white (including Hispanic) women, but the disparity has narrowed because birth rates for unmarried white women have increased more steadily than for unmarried black women (figure 8, table 3). In 1970 the rate for unmarried black women, 96 per 1,000, was nearly 7 times the rate for unmarried white women, 14. By 1998 this differential was just under 2; the rate for black women fell to 73 whereas the rate for white women rose to 38 per 1,000.

The rate for unmarried white women more than doubled from 18 per 1,000 in 1980 to 38 in 1994, and has since changed little (38 in 1998). (The rate for non-Hispanic white women has also changed little since 1994; it was 27 in 1998.) In contrast, the rate for unmarried black women increased about 12 percent from 81 in 1980 to 91 in 1989, and has declined steadily since, by 19 percent, to 73 per 1,000 in 1998 (figure 8 and table 3).

Rates for unmarried Hispanic women are available only since 1990. The rate was highest in 1994, at 101 per 1,000, and has dropped 11 percent since (figure 8, table 3). The birth rate for unmarried Hispanic women is the highest of any race or ethnicity group; this is consistent with the overall fertility patterns for Hispanic women (2, 4).

Rates for unmarried women by age within race and Hispanic origin groups show essentially the same trends as the overall rates by race and ethnicity. Rates have fallen especially steeply for unmarried black women under age 35 years (table 3).

Birth rates for married black women have declined even more than rates for unmarried black women and are now quite similar (tables 3 and 8). As a result, the *proportion* of births to unmarried black women remains high, 69 percent in 1999. Birth rates by age for unmarried non-Hispanic white and Hispanic women have generally stabilized or declined during the mid-1990's, while rates for married women have been increasing. Despite this, the *proportions* of births to unmarried non-Hispanic white and Hispanic women increased during the 1990's

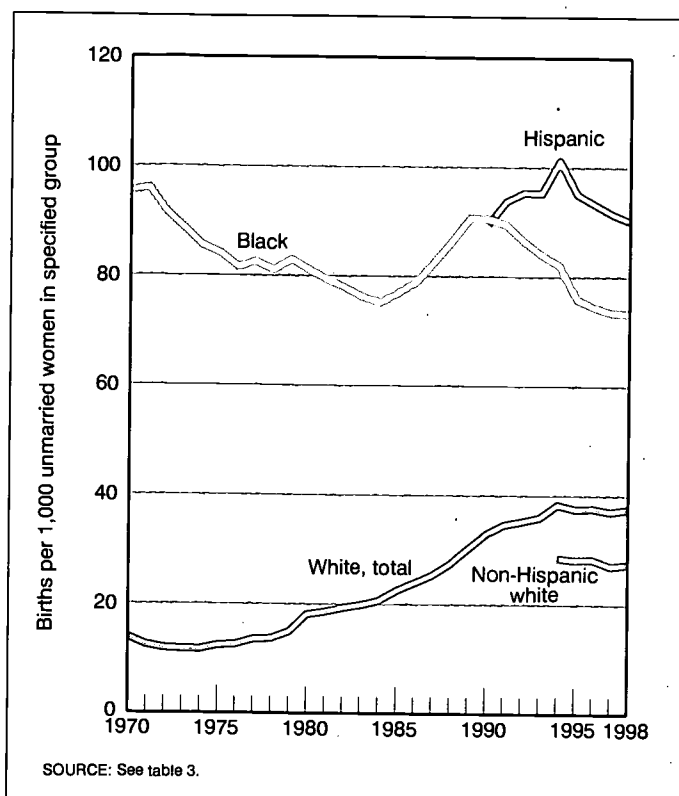


Figure 8. Birth rates for unmarried women: United States, 1970–98

(figure 9, table 4) because of increases in the percent of these women who were unmarried. In 1999 the percents of out-of-wedlock births were 22 for non-Hispanic white and 42 for Hispanic women.

The **percent of births to unmarried mothers** also differs by mother's place of birth (figure 10) (2). Overall in 1998, 34 percent of births to women born in the 50 States and the District of Columbia were nonmarital compared with 29 percent of births to women born elsewhere. The gap by nativity is seen for all population groups, with a twofold or greater differential for births to Asian or Pacific Islander women (the gap for Hawaiians is reversed).

In 1999, 4 in 10 nonmarital births were to non-Hispanic white women, with black women accounting for about one-third of the births, and Hispanic women, one-fourth (figure 11) (3). As recently as 1980, black women accounted for nearly half of all nonmarital births (table 2). The change in distribution reflects the much greater long-term increase in the nonmarital birth rate for all white women than for black women, especially among women aged 20 years and over. In addition, Hispanic women have accounted for an increasing proportion of all U.S. births—marital and nonmarital—since 1980 (2–4).

Teenage childbearing

Trends in teenage births are important to monitor because although less than 3 in 10 nonmarital births are to teenagers, the vast majority (79 percent) of teenage births are out of wedlock. Substantial progress has been recorded in reducing overall teenage birth rates in the 1990's. The rate for teenagers 15–19 years dropped 20 percent between 1991 and 1999. The rate for younger teenagers, 15–17 years, fell 26 percent whereas the rate for older teenagers 18–19

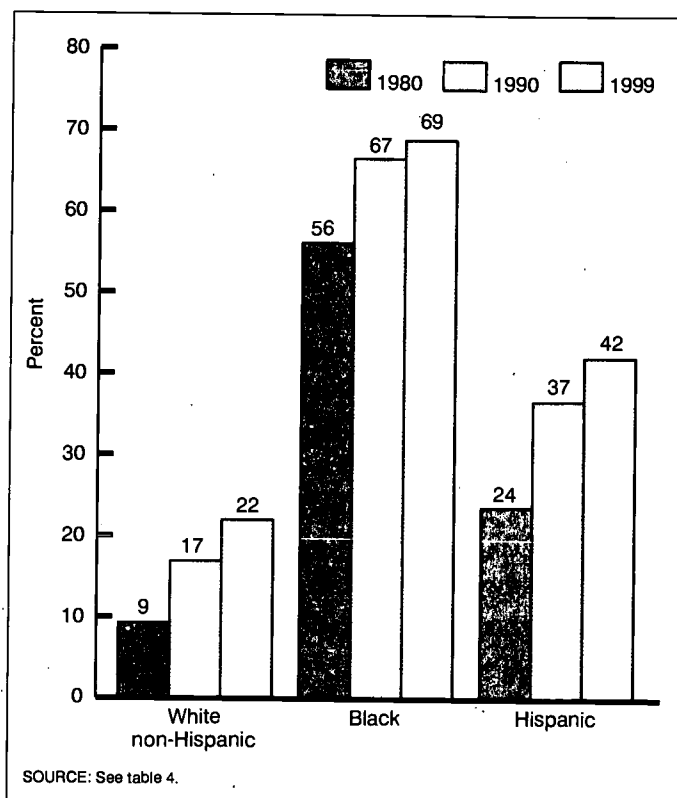


Figure 9. Percent of all births to unmarried women: United States, 1980, 1990, and 1999

years dropped 15 percent (3). Of particular note, the birth rate for second births to teens who have had a first birth dropped substantially—by 21 percent—from 1991 to 1996 before stabilizing (figure 12, table 9).

Although recorded birth rates for unmarried teenagers appear to have peaked sharply in 1994, it is likely that the actual peak occurred earlier, perhaps as early as 1991, when the rate for all teenagers reached its highest level. As discussed earlier in this report and in the Technical notes, substantially incomplete reporting of out-of-wedlock births in Michigan and Texas from 1988–89 through 1993 artificially depressed national estimates of nonmarital birth rates, including rates for teenagers. *Birth rates for unmarried teenagers* have declined since 1994 (figure 13, table 3). The rate for unmarried teenagers 15–17 years fell 16 percent from 1994 to 1998, while the rate for older unmarried teenagers 18–19 years fell 8 percent. To put these recent declines in perspective, we should note that from 1980 to 1994, the rate for unmarried teenagers 15–17 years rose 55 percent, whereas the rate for teenagers 18–19 years rose 80 percent. Birth rates have dropped for unmarried non-Hispanic white, black, and Hispanic teenagers, but they dropped the most for black teenagers.

Declines in births and birth rates for all teenagers and for unmarried teenagers are factors in the slowed pace of increase in the 1990's in births and birth rates for unmarried women, in part because births to unmarried teenagers still account for nearly one-third of all nonmarital births. For example, if the birth rates for unmarried teenagers in 1998 were the same as the rates observed in the peak year of 1994, there would have been an additional 45,000 births to unmarried women, or a total of more than 1.34 million in 1998, 3 percent more than the actual number that year.

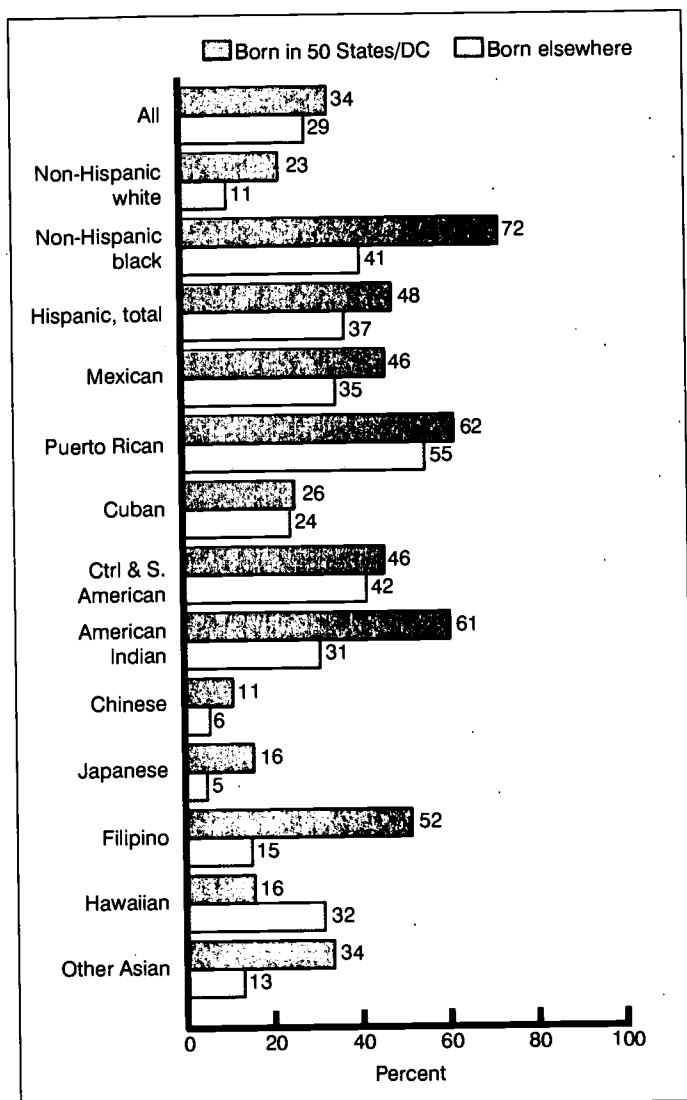


Figure 10. Percent of births to unmarried women by mother's place of birth, by Hispanic origin, and race or national origin: United State, 1998

Shifts in age distribution of unmarried mothers

Because of steep increases in birth rates for unmarried women aged 20 years and over and in the number of these women, as noted earlier, the proportion of all nonmarital births that are to teenagers has dropped considerably. In 1970, for example, half of all births to unmarried women were to teenagers; since 1985 only about one-third of these births have been to teenagers (figure 14, table 2). Women in their twenties account for over half of nonmarital births.

Changes in marriage and family formation

As noted earlier, dramatic changes in marriage patterns have occurred since the mid-1960's, with increasing proportions of women and men postponing marriage. The increase in the absolute numbers of unmarried women was especially dramatic because the number of women in the childbearing ages was surging upward during this time. These women were born during the baby boom years.

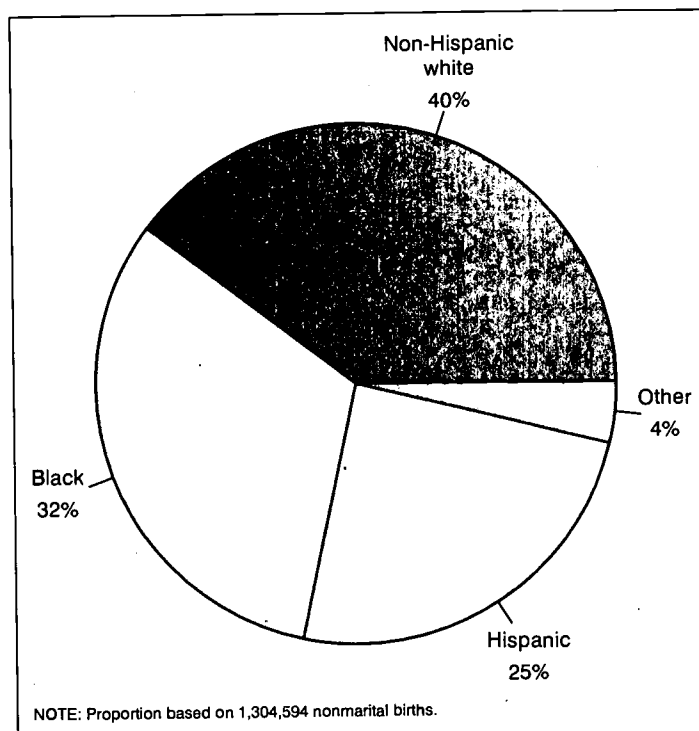


Figure 11. Distribution of nonmarital births by age, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1999

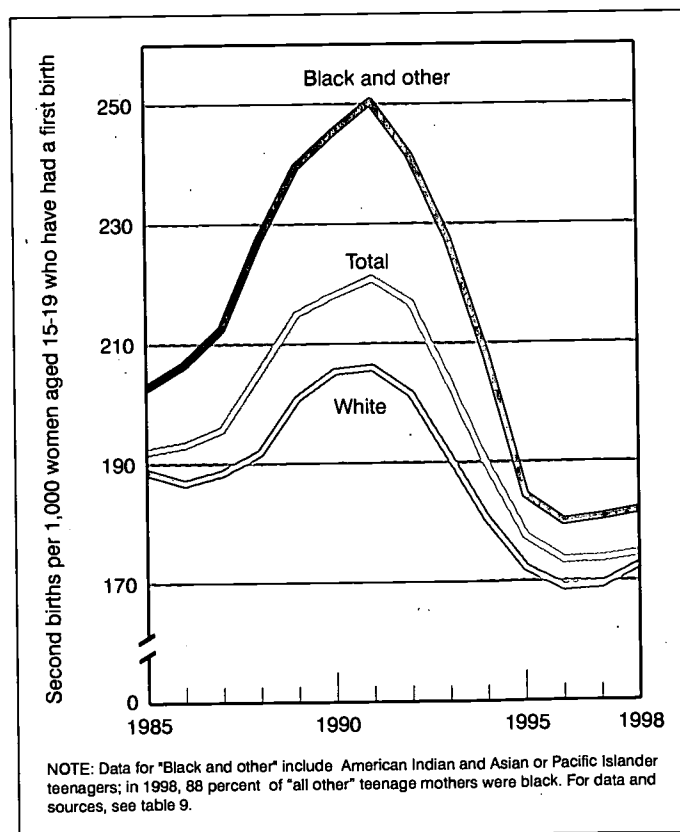


Figure 12. Rate of second births to teenagers who have had a first birth: United States, 1985-98

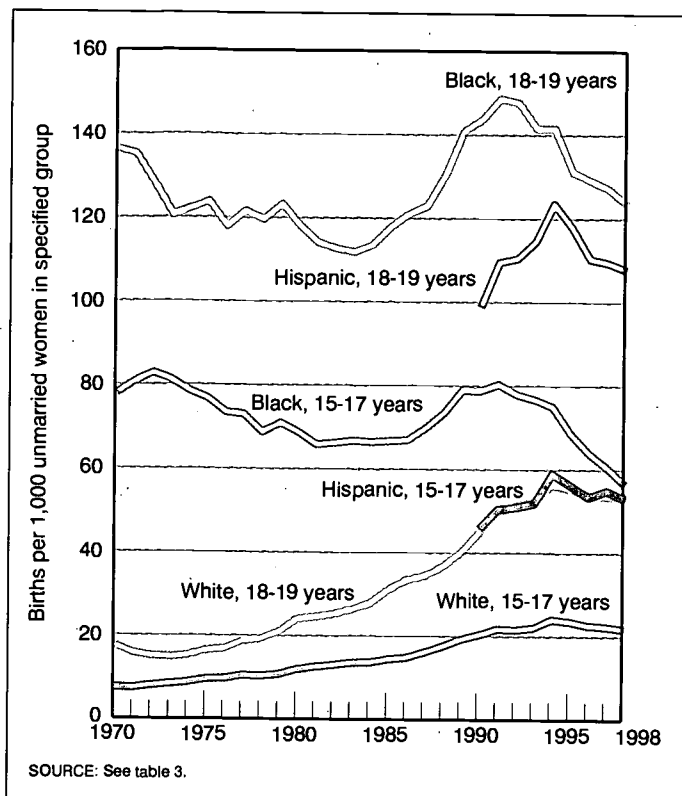


Figure 13. Birth rates for unmarried teenagers: United States, 1970-98

A key change in marital status patterns has been the large increase in cohabitation or "living together" among unmarried couples (5, 6). In the years 1980-84, 29 percent of out-of-wedlock births were to cohabiting couples; by 1990-94, this proportion increased to 39 percent, according to data from NCHS' National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) and the National Survey of Families and Households (5). Most of the increase in births to unmarried women since the early 1980's was in births to unmarried cohabiting women; nearly all of this increase was among non-Hispanic white women (figure 15).

Concurrent with the increase in cohabitation has been continued declines (although at a slower pace) in the proportion of women marrying upon the discovery of a premarital conception (figures 16, 17) (7). Data from the fertility supplements of the *Current Population Survey* show that most of this decline occurred from the early 1960's to the late 1970's, but the proportion has continued to fall through the early 1990's. Among women aged 15-29 years conceiving a first birth before marriage during 1970-74, nearly half (49 percent) married before the child was born. By 1975-79 the proportion marrying before the birth of the child fell to 32 percent, and it has declined to 23 percent in 1990-94. The decline between 1980-84 and 1990-94 was entirely in the white population (figure 17).

Nonmarital pregnancies

Most of the information in this report focuses on nonmarital **births**. However, to fully understand trends in nonmarital births requires some review of trends in nonmarital **pregnancies**. The most recent year for which pregnancy rates by marital status can be computed is 1995, because information on abortions and fetal losses is not as current as information on live births. The pregnancy rate for

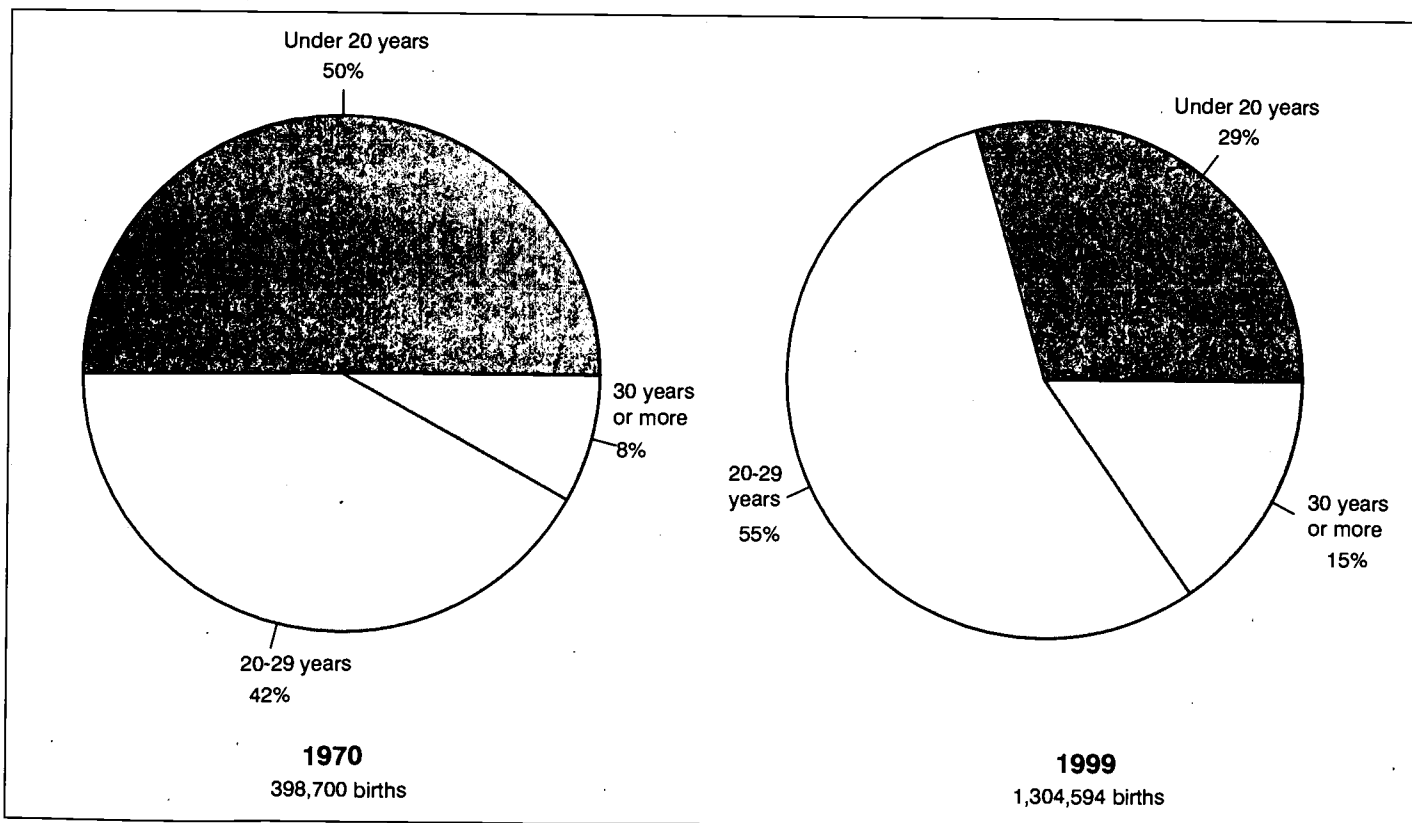


Figure 14. Distribution of nonmarital births by age: United States, 1970 and 1999

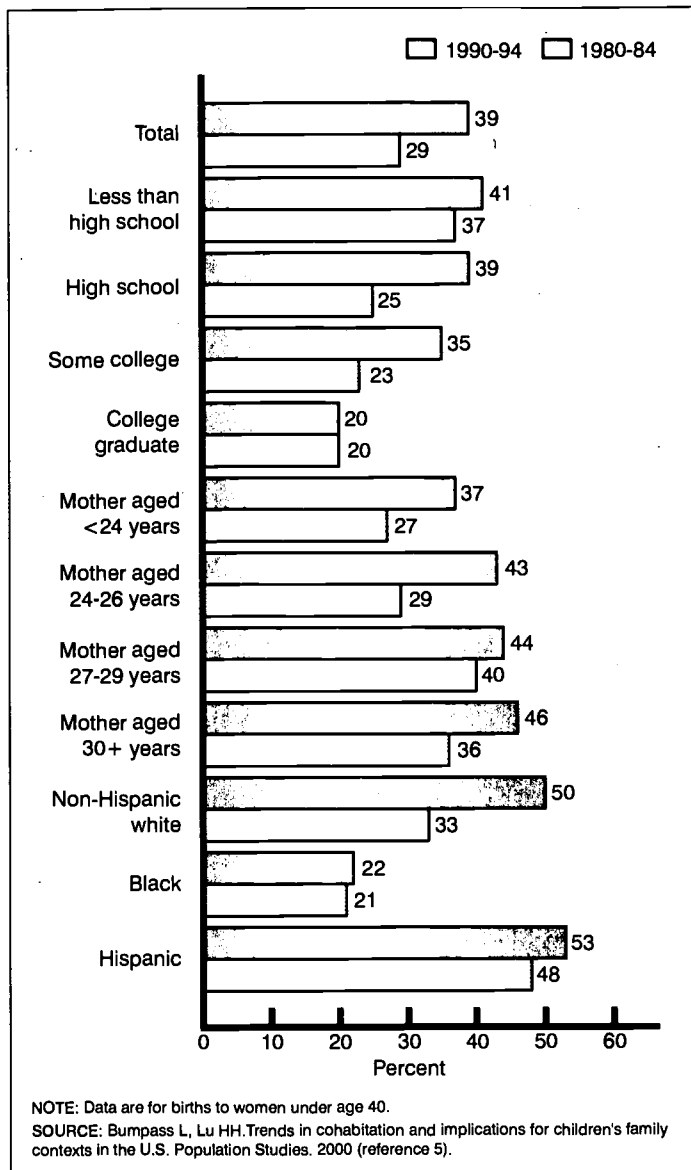


Figure 15. Percent of nonmarital births to cohabiting parents, by maternal characteristics: United States, 1980-84 and 1990-94

unmarried women in 1995 was 95.8 pregnancies per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15-44 years (**figure 18**), compared with a rate of 113.2 per 1,000 for married women (8).

Pregnancy rates among unmarried women of all races increased sharply, from 88 to 102 pregnancies per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15-44 years between 1980 and 1990, but declined slightly to 96 by 1995. The decline in nonmarital pregnancy rates has been greatest among women of races other than white, among whom the rate declined from 175 per 1,000 in 1990 to 152 in 1995. Despite this decline, in 1995 pregnancy rates remained nearly twice as high among women of races other than white as among white women (77 per 1,000 in 1995).

The majority of pregnancies among unmarried women are unintended. Information on unintended pregnancies comes from the NSFG (9, 10). Although the proportion of unintended pregnancies has declined for both formerly married and never-married women, still 63 and 78 percent of their pregnancies in 1994, respectively, were unintended (**fig-**

A critical factor affecting trends in nonmarital births is the abortion rate. The abortion rate for unmarried women in 1995 was 39.3 abortions per 1,000, more than 4 times the rate for married women (8). In 1995 about 4 in every 10 pregnancies among unmarried women ended in abortion, compared with about 1 in 12 pregnancies among married women (**figure 20**). The likelihood that a nonmarital pregnancy will end in abortion differs little between white and black women, but is somewhat lower for Hispanic women (**figure 21**).

The pregnancies of unmarried women were less likely to end in abortion in 1995 than was the case in 1980 (**figure 20**) (8). Forty-one percent of nonmarital pregnancies ended in abortion in 1995 compared with 59 percent in 1980. The abortion rate for unmarried women fell by one-fourth between 1980 and 1995.

Adoption—In earlier periods, adoption played a role, not affecting the nonmarital birth rates, but rather limiting the number of families initially headed by unmarried mothers. Before 1973 about one in five premarital births to white women were relinquished for adoption. By the mid-1980's (1982-88), this proportion fell to 1 in 30. Formal adoption has been low and continues to be very low for black women (**figure 22**) (11).

Sexual activity and contraceptive use

Trends in nonmarital pregnancy rates reflect, in part, trends in sexual activity among unmarried women. Among unmarried adult women of childbearing age, levels of sexual activity remained stable or even increased slightly between 1988 and 1995. The proportion of unmarried women in their twenties who were sexually active in the previous year increased slightly, from 72.6 to 76.8 percent, while the proportion reporting having sex once a week or more remained stable (approximately 40 percent in both 1988 and 1995) (**figure 23**).

Contraceptive use may also have played a role in declining pregnancy rates among unmarried women. The percent of all unmarried women at risk of unintended pregnancy (that is, sexually active in the past 3 months, and neither sterile, pregnant, post-partum, or seeking pregnancy) who were not using a method of contraception declined between 1988 and 1995 from 18 to 12 percent (**figure 24**). The methods used by unmarried women underwent important shifts, including an increase in the use of condoms, a decrease in oral contraceptive use, and a shift to the use of long-acting methods (injectable or implant contraceptives) (12). Sterilization remained an important method for unmarried women in 1995, accounting for about one-quarter of all contraceptive use in that group. The vast majority of unmarried women using sterilization relied on tubal ligation; few relied on their partners' vasectomy (12).

These shifts in method use had offsetting influences on the risk of unintended pregnancy. The chances of contraceptive failure (including method failure and incorrect or inconsistent use) in the first 12 months of use are higher for the condom (14 percent) than for oral contraceptives (8 percent), and lowest for injectables (3 percent), implants (2 percent), and sterilization (13). Thus, the mix of methods used by unmarried contraceptive users in 1995 included greater proportions of both more effective and less effective methods.

Among teenaged women, both stabilization in the proportion of teens who have ever had sexual intercourse and more effective use of contraception have contributed to declines in nonmarital pregnancy. According to the NSFG and CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, the

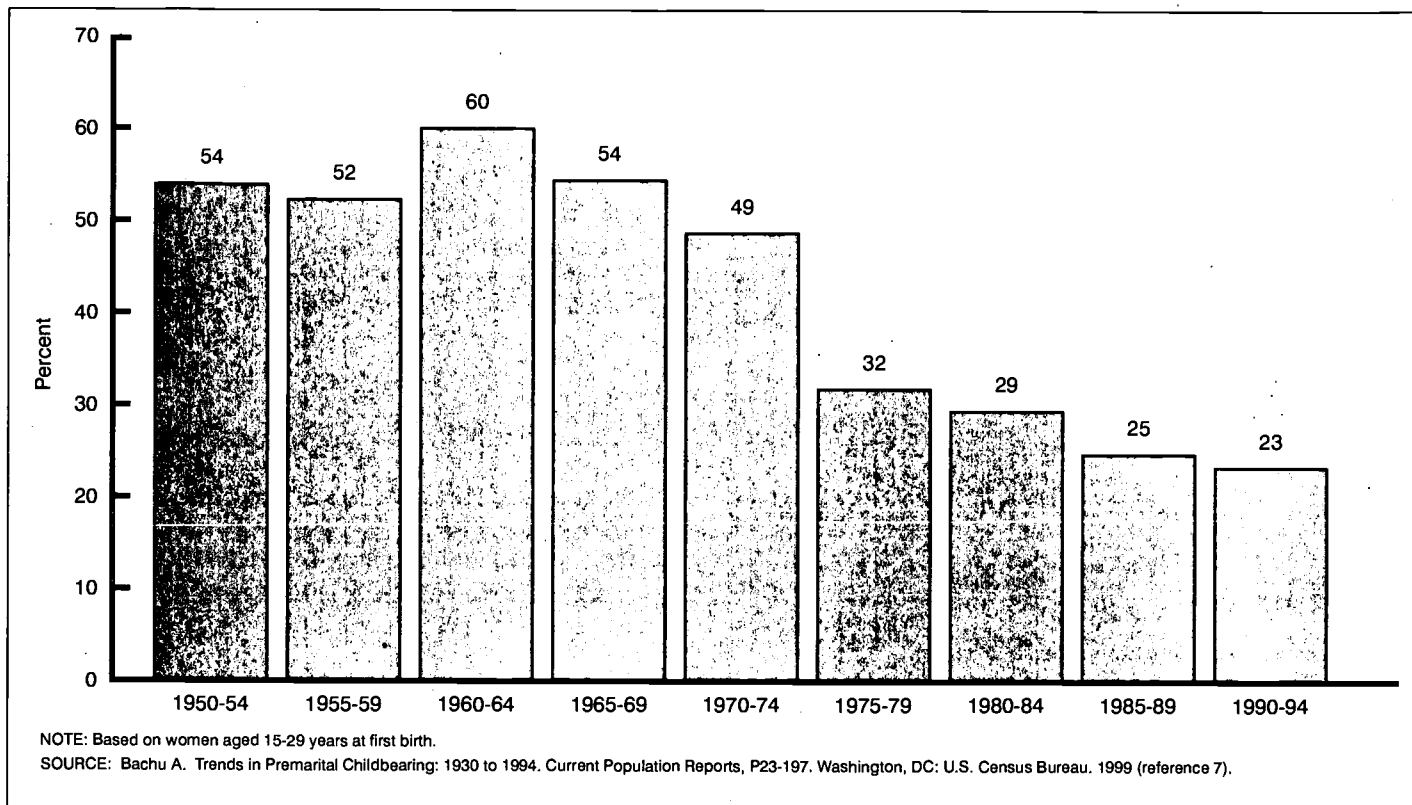


Figure 16. Among first births conceived before marriage, percent marrying before birth of child: United States, 1950-54 to 1990-94

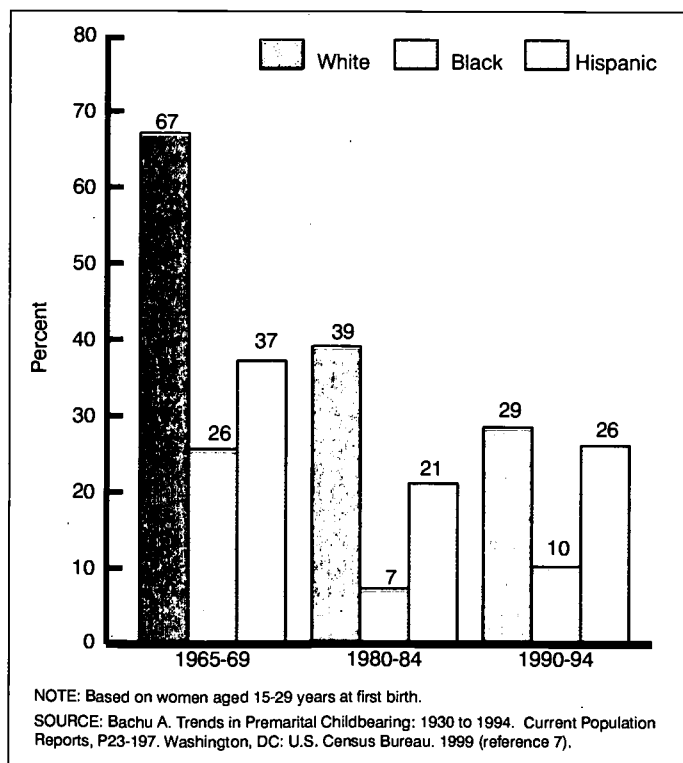


Figure 17. Among first births conceived before marriage, percent marrying before birth of child by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1965-69, 1980-84, and 1990-94

proportion of teenaged women who are sexually experienced leveled off or declined in the 1990's, reversing the steady increases over the previous two decades (14-16). Unmarried teenagers at risk of unintended pregnancy were not significantly more likely to be using a method of contraception in 1995 compared with 1988, but teenagers became more likely to have used contraceptives at first intercourse (8, 15). Changes between 1988 and 1995 in the methods used by unmarried teenagers using contraception were similar to changes observed among all unmarried women.

The decline in nonmarital pregnancy rates since 1990 has been most pronounced among black women. These trends probably reflect changes in contraceptive use. Among unmarried black women aged 15-44 years, levels of sexual activity in the previous year remained stable between 1988 and 1995 (8). However, contraceptive use shifted in ways that may have reduced the risk of unintended pregnancy. Again, according to the NSFG, the proportion of unmarried non-Hispanic black women who were sexually active and at risk of unintended pregnancy but not using any method of contraception declined from 18 percent in 1988 to 12 percent in 1995 (figure 25). Among unmarried black women who were using a method of contraception, the proportion using oral contraceptives declined dramatically—from 44 to 26 percent between 1988 and 1995—but this decline was offset by the adoption of injectable or implant methods by 10 percent of unmarried black contraceptive users. These long-acting methods were particularly likely to be adopted by black teenagers: about one-quarter of sexually active black women 15-19 years of age were using these methods in 1995 (8, 12). In addition, condom use rose dramatically among unmarried black women, from 10 to 23 percent between 1988 and 1995. Calculations by the Alan Guttmacher Institute suggest that contraceptive-failure rates among

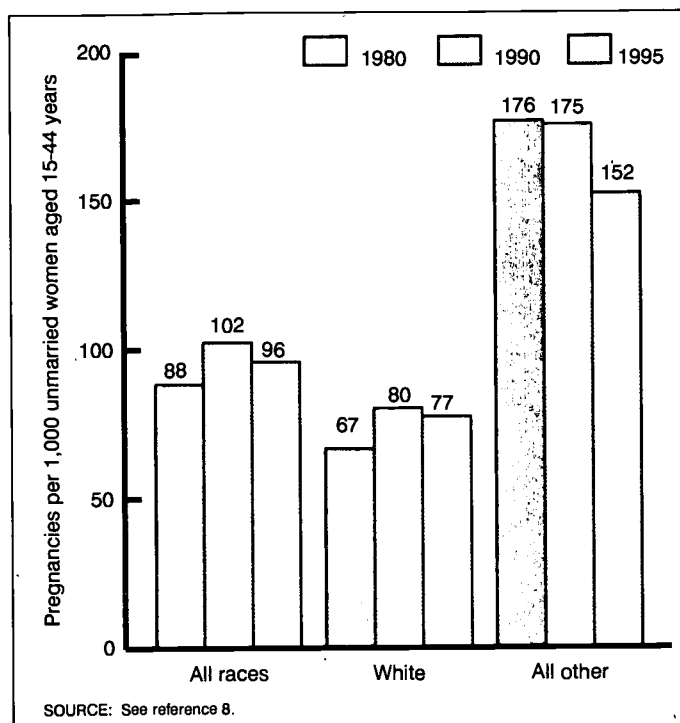


Figure 18. Pregnancy rates for unmarried women aged 15-44 years by race: United States, 1980, 1990, and 1995

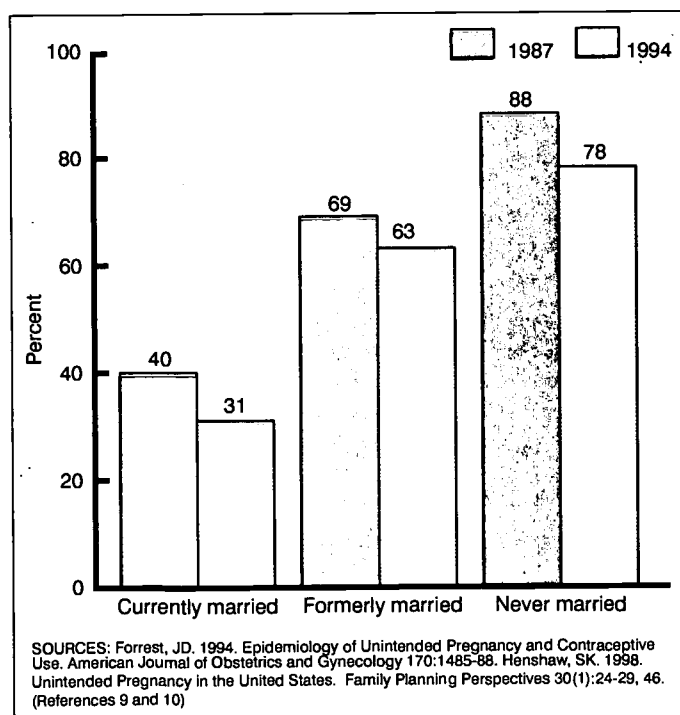


Figure 19. Percent of pregnancies to women aged 15-44 years unintended by woman's marital status: United States, 1987 and 1994

poor and near-poor black women declined between 1988 and 1995, percent to 21 percent (13, 17).

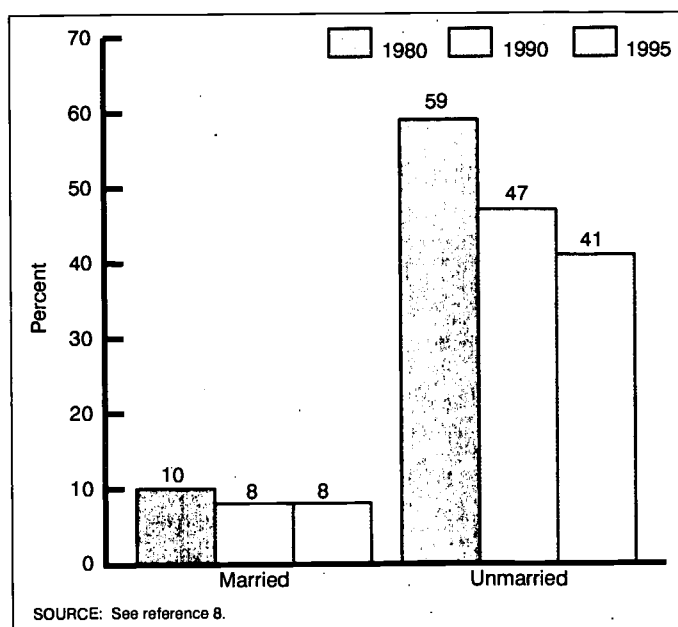


Figure 20. Percent of pregnancies ending in abortion by marital status: United States, 1980, 1990, and 1995

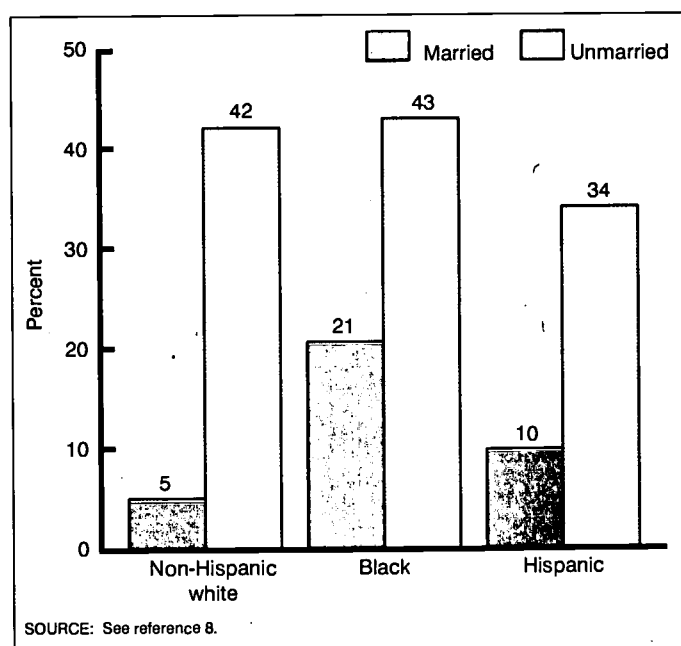


Figure 21. Percent of pregnancies ending in abortion by marital status, race, and Hispanic origin for women aged 15-44 years: United States, 1995

International comparisons

The United States has not been alone, nor has it outpaced other countries, in nonmarital childbearing. In 1998, for example, two-thirds of births in Iceland and half or more of births in Norway and Sweden were out of wedlock, compared with one-third in the United States (18-21). Other industrialized countries with higher proportions of nonmarital births were Denmark, France, the United Kingdom, and

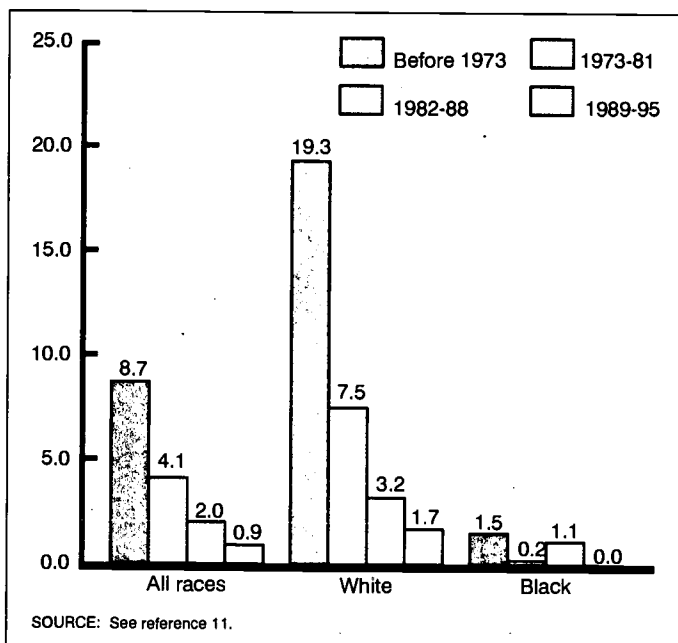


Figure 22. Among children born to never-married women under 45 years of age, percent who were relinquished for adoption, by race, according to year of birth

Future trends

Possible future patterns in nonmarital childbearing will be affected by a variety of different factors. The size and composition of the unmarried female population is clearly an important variable. According to current projections by the U.S. Census Bureau, the total number of women in the key age groups 18–29 years is expected to rise by about 13 percent between 1999 and 2010, although the overall number of women in the childbearing ages 15–44 years will increase by only 0.6 percent (22). If we assume no change in the proportion of these women who are unmarried by age (as of 1999)—a conservative assumption—then the **number** of unmarried women aged 18–29 years will grow about 14 percent. Again, the overall number of unmarried women aged 15–44 years will rise much less—only about 5 percent. If nonmarital birth rates by age remain at their 1998 levels in 2010, the **number of nonmarital births** could be expected to grow by 11 percent, from 1.30 million in 1999 to 1.44 million in 2000. *Thus, shifts in the number of women in the peak years of nonmarital childbearing alone will account for a substantial increase in the number of nonmarital births, even if nonmarital birth rates and the propensity to delay marriage remain unchanged.*

As just suggested, a shift in marriage patterns could make a big difference. The above hypothetical trends could be sharply different if marriage rates for women in their twenties especially were to increase. Similarly, a rise in birth rates for married women could help contain an increase in the proportion of nonmarital births. A modest 4-percent increase has been measured in the birth rate for married women since 1996, halting—at least temporarily—the steady 14-percent decline between 1980 and 1996 (tables 1, 8).

The sustained decline in teenage pregnancy and birth rates in the 1990's may influence future trends in the percent of births born outside of marriage. Pregnancies and births that occur in the teenage years are much more likely to take place out of wedlock than those to older women. As births are deferred from the teenage years to early or late twenties, or even thirties, they will be more likely to occur to married women.

Fundamental changes in behavior and attitudes as well as societal trends may play important roles. It appears that attitudes about premarital sex have changed among young people. A large variety of public and private initiatives at the Federal, State, and local level have focused teenagers' attention on the importance of pregnancy prevention through abstinence and responsible behavior (23). Although large proportions of teenagers are sexually experienced, there is consistent evidence that the long-term upward trend in sexual activity among teenagers has halted. There is no evidence, however, that sex in the early teenage years is also on the decline (15). The introduction of effective new birth control methods (implant and injectable contraceptives) has been an important factor in the declines in birth rates for sexually active teenagers and adult unmarried women. In addition, the 1990's have witnessed increased economic opportunity for young people and adults. Continued economic gains are likely to influence positively the educational and career aspirations of young people and deter them from early and out-of-wedlock childbearing.

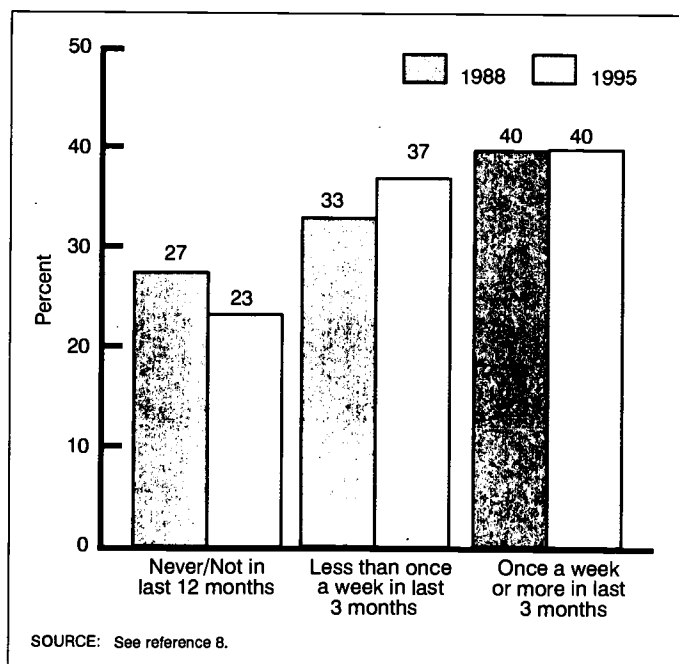


Figure 23. Frequency of sexual intercourse among unmarried women 20–29 years of age: United States, 1995

Finland. The upward trend in nonmarital birth proportions observed in the United States is matched as well in all industrialized countries (figure 26). However, levels in the United States are much higher than in some industrialized countries. In Germany, Italy, Greece, and Japan, less than 15 percent of births occur out of wedlock.

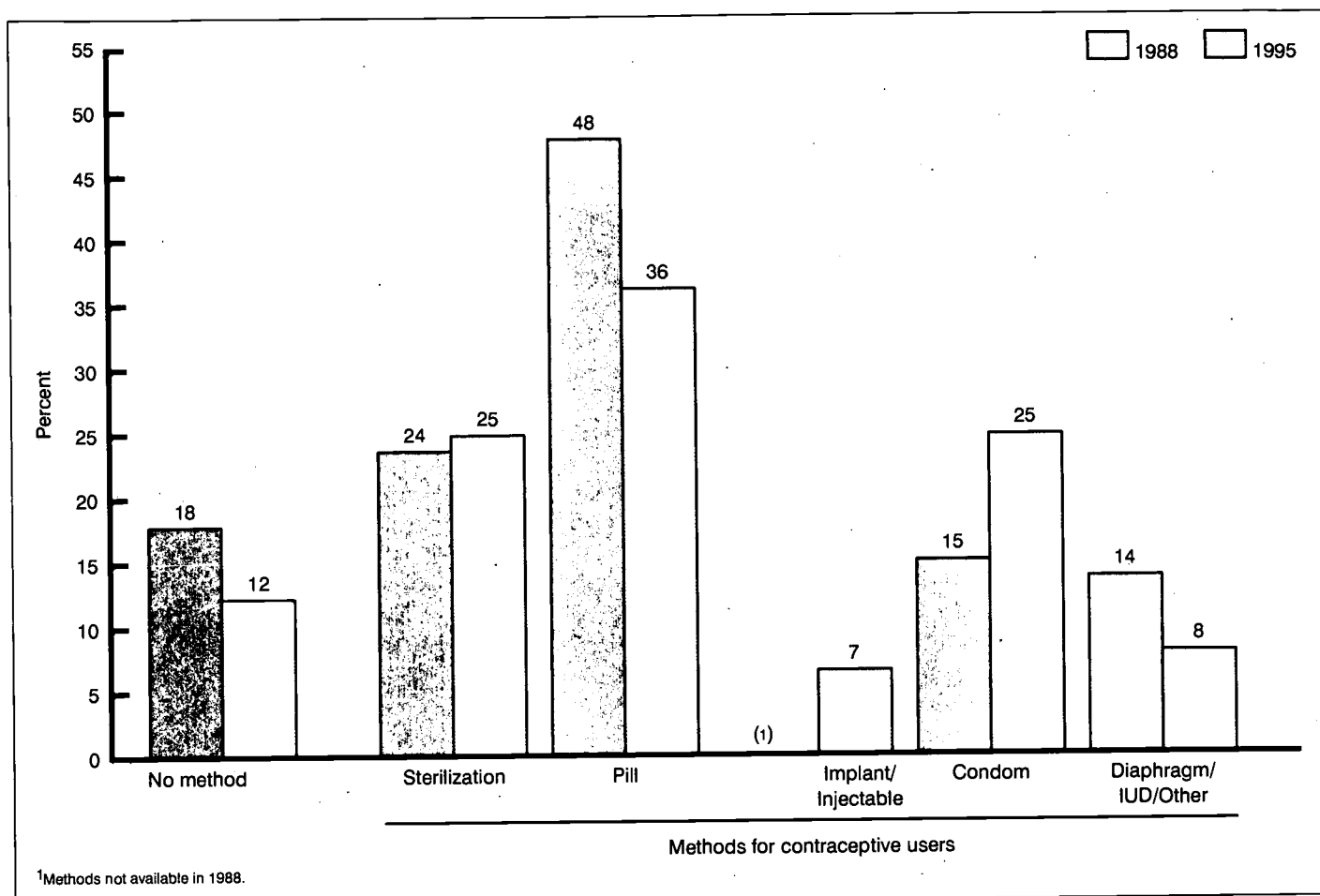


Figure 24. Contraceptive use among unmarried women aged 15-44 years: United States, 1988 and 1995

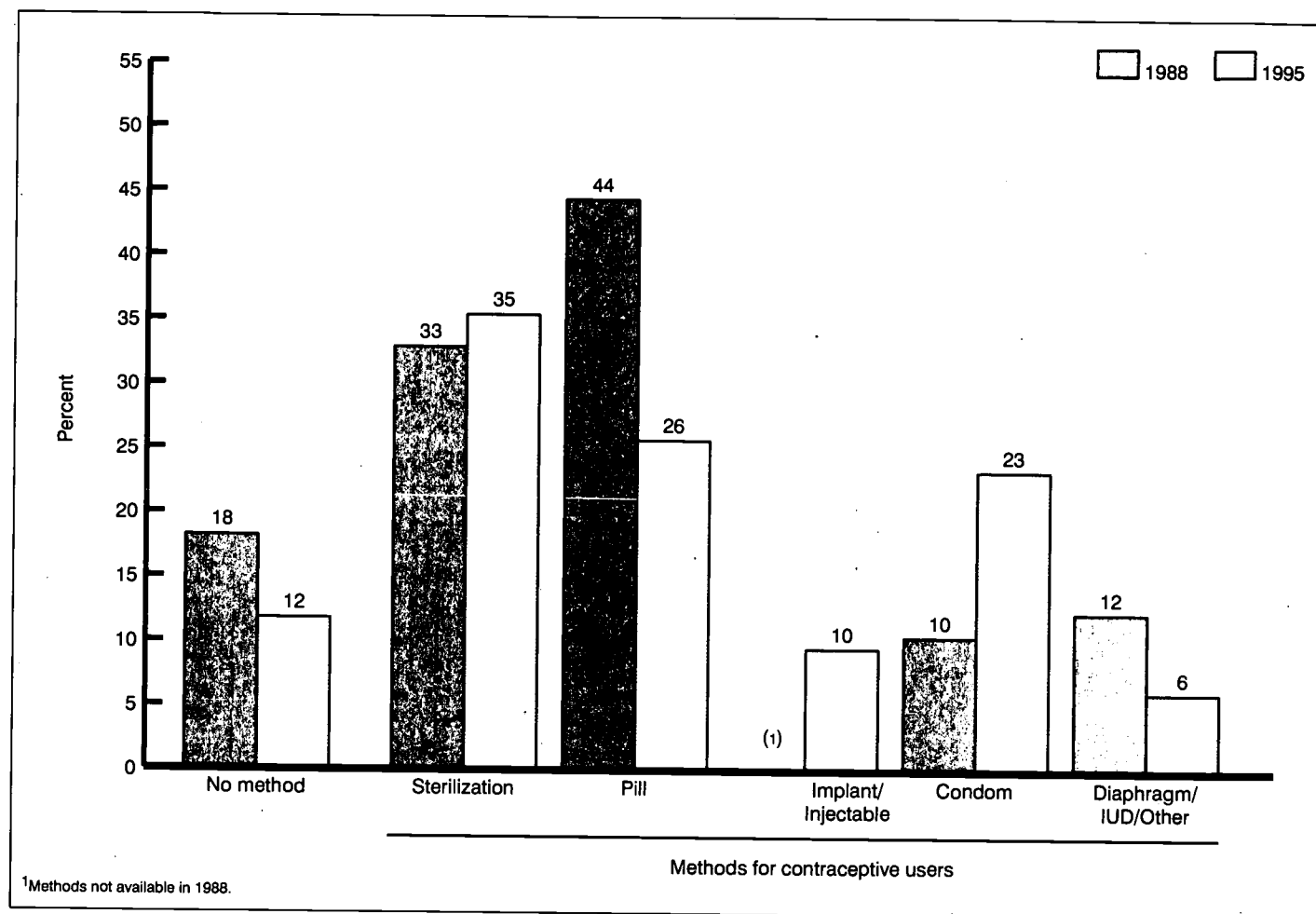


Figure 25. Contraceptive use among unmarried non-Hispanic black women aged 15–44 years: United States, 1988 and 1995

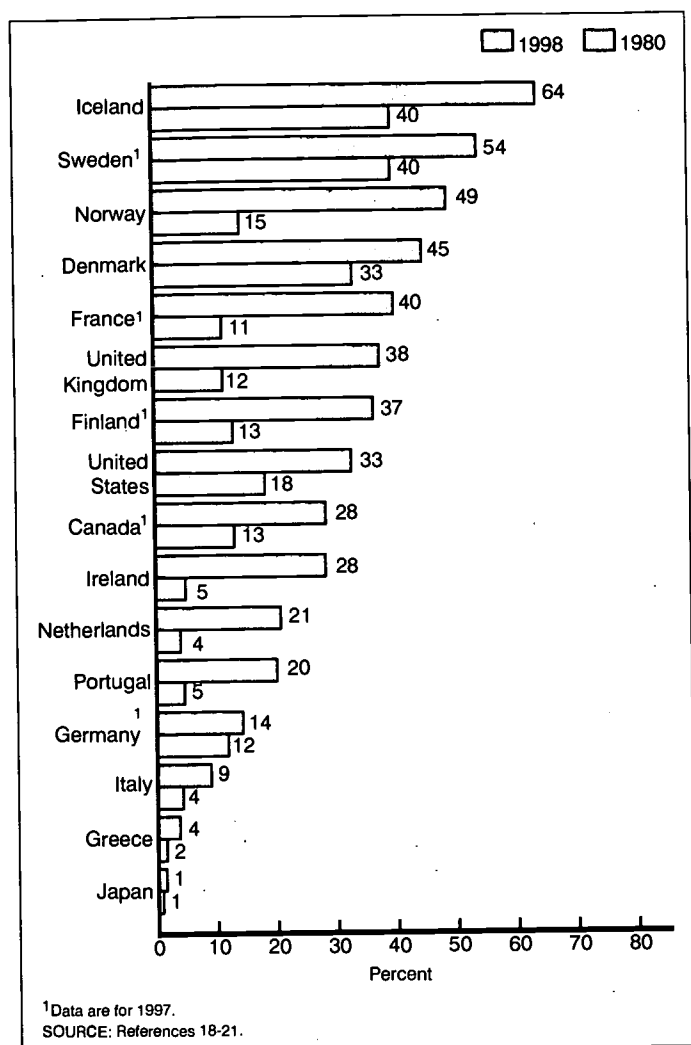


Figure 26. Percent of births to unmarried women, selected countries, 1980 and 1998

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Table 1. Number, rate, and percent of births to unmarried women and birth rate for married women: United States, 1940-99

Year	Number of births to unmarried women	Percent of all births to unmarried women	Birth rate per 1,000 unmarried women 15-44	Birth rate per 1,000 married women 15-44
1999 ¹	1,304,594	33.0	43.9	87.3
1998	1,293,567	32.8	44.3	85.7
1997	1,257,444	32.4	44.0	84.3
1996	1,260,306	32.4	44.8	83.7
1995	1,253,976	32.2	45.1	83.7
1994	1,289,592	32.6	46.9	83.8
1993	1,240,172	31.0	45.3	86.8
1992	1,224,876	30.1	45.2	89.0
1991	1,213,769	29.5	45.2	89.9
1990	1,165,384	28.0	43.8	93.2
1989	1,094,169	27.1	41.6	91.9
1988	1,005,299	25.7	38.5	90.8
1987	933,013	24.5	36.0	90.0
1986	878,477	23.4	34.2	90.7
1985	828,174	22.0	32.8	93.3
1984	770,355	21.0	31.0	93.1
1983	737,893	20.3	30.3	93.6
1982	715,227	19.4	30.0	96.2
1981	686,605	18.9	29.5	96.0
1980	665,747	18.4	29.4	97.0
1979	597,800	17.1	27.2	96.4
1978	543,900	16.3	25.7	93.6
1977	515,700	15.5	25.6	94.9
1976	468,100	14.8	24.3	91.6
1975	447,900	14.3	24.5	92.1
1974	418,100	13.2	23.9	94.2
1973	407,300	13.0	24.3	94.7
1972	403,200	12.4	24.8	100.8
1971	401,400	11.3	25.5	113.2
1970	398,700	10.7	26.4	121.1
1969	360,800	10.0	24.8	118.8
1968	339,200	9.7	24.3	116.6
1967	318,100	9.0	23.7	118.7
1966	302,400	8.4	23.3	123.6
1965	291,200	7.7	23.4	130.2
1964	275,700	6.9	23.0	141.8
1963	259,400	6.3	22.5	145.9
1962	245,100	5.9	21.9	150.8
1961	240,200	5.6	22.7	155.8
1960	224,300	5.3	21.6	156.6
1959	220,600	5.2	21.9	---
1958	208,700	5.0	21.2	---
1957	201,700	4.7	21.0	---
1956	193,500	4.7	20.4	---
1955	183,300	4.5	19.3	153.7
1954	176,600	4.4	18.7	---
1953	160,800	4.1	16.9	---
1952	150,300	3.9	15.8	---
1951	146,500	3.9	15.1	---
1950	141,600	4.0	14.1	141.0
1949	133,200	3.7	13.3	---
1948	129,700	3.7	12.5	---
1947	131,900	3.6	12.1	---
1946	125,200	3.8	10.9	---
1945	117,400	4.3	10.1	---
1944	105,200	3.8	9.0	---
1943	98,100	3.3	8.3	---
1942	95,500	3.4	8.0	---
1941	95,700	3.8	7.8	---
1940	89,500	3.8	7.1	---

--- Data not available.

¹Data are preliminary. Figures are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual.

SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System.

Table 2. Number of births to unmarried women by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1940 and 1950-99

Year and race	All ages	Under 15 years	Age of mother											
			15-19 years							20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years						
All races														
Reported/Inferred ¹														
1999 ²	1,304,594	8,724	373,931	23,176	143,318	79,320	107,542	230,613	475,266	245,866	124,256	62,234	14,318	
1998	1,293,567	9,137	380,868	24,497	49,061	81,302	104,267	121,769	460,367	243,280	124,624	61,087	14,204	
1997	1,257,444	9,685	376,117	24,497	50,454	81,302	104,267	115,597	438,632	234,762	124,831	59,870	13,547	
1996	1,260,306	10,460	373,289	25,776	51,901	79,161	101,731	114,720	431,462	235,651	133,048	62,656	13,740	
1995	1,253,976	11,441	375,738	27,590	53,235	80,315	103,284	111,314	432,003	228,614	133,282	60,234	12,664	
1994	1,289,592	12,186	381,499	27,898	54,210	82,027	102,862	114,502	449,246	237,636	136,991	59,701	12,333	
1993	1,240,172	11,467	357,432	26,153	50,689	75,370	97,450	107,770	438,538	233,776	132,263	55,570	11,126	
1992	1,224,876	11,161	353,878	25,459	49,021	74,103	96,009	109,286	435,727	233,467	127,982	52,447	10,214	
1991	1,213,769	10,968	357,483	25,083	49,049	74,039	98,118	111,194	429,094	234,593	123,901	48,353	9,377	
1990	1,165,384	10,675	349,970	24,068	46,309	72,021	95,961	111,611	403,873	229,991	118,200	44,149	8,526	
1989	1,094,169	10,612	337,268	23,358	46,194	71,134	94,815	101,767	378,122	215,477	106,344	39,030	7,316	
1988	1,005,299	9,907	312,499	22,456	44,101	69,580	85,659	90,703	350,905	196,365	94,874	34,408	6,341	
1987	933,013	9,583	292,958	22,005	44,515	64,220	78,338	83,880	331,257	179,257	84,186	30,271	5,501	
1986	878,477	9,415	280,720	22,248	41,625	59,618	75,493	81,736	316,188	165,662	74,928	26,967	4,597	
1985	828,174	9,386	270,922	20,930	39,630	58,371	72,934	79,057	300,365	152,024	67,315	24,038	4,124	
1984	770,355	9,075	261,104	19,945	38,763	56,647	70,175	75,574	279,192	136,956	59,261	20,916	3,851	
1983	737,893	8,816	261,260	20,078	39,356	57,191	70,716	73,919	265,579	126,519	53,884	18,206	3,629	
1982	715,227	8,720	260,626	20,142	39,750	57,804	70,496	72,434	257,473	118,954	49,559	16,420	3,475	
1981	686,605	8,589	259,239	20,554	40,173	57,881	69,056	71,575	246,919	109,174	45,300	14,281	3,103	
1980	665,747	9,024	262,777	21,908	41,386	58,606	69,173	71,704	237,265	99,583	40,984	13,187	2,927	
Estimated ³														
1980	643,400	9,200	262,400	22,200	41,700	58,800	68,800	70,900	229,900	91,900	36,000	11,400	2,600	
1979	597,800	9,500	253,200	21,800	41,300	56,900	66,400	66,600	210,100	80,600	31,300	10,600	2,500	
1978	543,900	9,400	239,700	21,400	40,200	54,900	62,200	61,000	186,500	70,000	26,500	9,400	2,300	
1977	515,700	10,100	239,700	23,000	42,400	55,500	60,800	57,900	168,600	62,400	23,700	8,800	2,300	
1976	468,100	10,300	225,000	22,900	41,700	51,900	55,900	52,600	145,400	55,400	21,000	8,600	2,300	
1975	447,900	11,000	222,500	23,800	41,400	51,600	55,600	50,200	134,000	50,200	19,800	8,100	2,300	
1974	418,100	10,600	210,800	23,100	40,100	49,800	51,500	46,200	122,700	44,900	18,600	8,200	2,300	
1973	407,300	10,900	204,900	23,000	39,600	48,700	49,100	44,400	119,100	43,100	18,500	8,200	2,600	
1972	403,200	9,900	202,300	22,500	38,400	47,600	49,200	44,500	119,600	41,200	19,000	8,600	2,700	
1971	401,400	9,500	194,100	20,400	35,500	44,900	47,800	45,400	125,200	40,900	19,300	9,400	3,000	
1970	398,700	9,500	190,400	19,300	34,000	42,800	47,500	46,800	126,700	40,600	19,100	9,400	3,000	
1969	360,800	8,300	168,200	16,700	29,100	37,500	42,400	42,500	116,900	37,600	17,700	9,200	3,100	
1968	339,200	7,700	158,000	15,400	27,000	35,500	39,500	40,700	107,900	35,200	17,200	9,700	3,300	
1967	318,100	6,900	144,400	13,600	24,900	32,400	36,100	37,400	101,600	34,500	17,300	10,100	3,300	
1966	302,400	6,200	135,800	12,900	23,000	30,000	34,000	35,800	92,500	35,500	18,400	10,500	3,400	
1965	291,200	6,100	123,200	12,200	21,200	28,400	32,700	28,700	90,700	36,800	19,600	11,400	3,700	
1964	275,700	5,800	111,400	11,300	20,200	27,200	25,800	26,900	87,900	36,400	19,500	11,100	3,600	
1963	259,400	5,400	101,800	10,700	18,600	21,700	24,900	25,800	82,600	35,400	19,800	10,900	3,500	
1962	245,100	5,100	94,400	10,100	15,500	20,600	23,600	24,700	77,400	34,000	19,800	11,100	3,300	
1961	240,200	5,200	93,200	9,000	15,500	20,500	24,600	23,500	74,000	33,700	19,800	11,100	3,200	
1960	224,300	4,600	87,100	8,700	15,100	19,900	21,800	21,600	68,000	32,100	18,900	10,600	3,000	
1959	220,600	4,600	84,500	8,800	15,200	19,100	20,900	20,600	67,300	32,000	19,000	10,500	2,800	
1958	208,700	4,400	79,400	8,400	13,900	17,800	19,700	19,600	62,800	30,800	18,700	9,900	2,700	
1957	201,700	4,600	76,400	8,200	13,900	17,300	19,000	18,100	60,500	29,800	18,200	9,400	2,800	
1956	193,500	4,200	72,800	7,500	13,200	16,200	18,400	17,500	58,800	29,400	17,000	8,800	2,500	
1955	183,300	3,900	68,900	7,200	11,900	15,700	17,200	17,100	55,700	28,000	16,100	8,300	2,400	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Number of births to unmarried women by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1940 and 1950-99—Con.

Year and race	All ages	Age of mother										35-39 years	40 years and over
		Under 15 years	15-19 years					20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years			
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years				19 years		
All races													
Estimated ³ —Con.													
1954	176,600	3,900	67,200		33,600			33,500	53,300	26,600	15,500	7,900	2,200
1953	160,800	3,400	61,500		30,900			30,600	48,800	24,500	13,400	7,000	2,100
1952	150,300	3,200	58,700		30,700			28,000	45,500	22,400	12,400	6,500	1,600
1951	146,500	3,200	57,400		29,200			28,300	43,900	22,000	11,900	6,200	1,900
1950	141,600	3,200	56,000		28,700			27,400	43,100	20,900	10,800	6,000	1,700
1940	89,500	2,100	40,500						27,200	10,500	5,200	3,000	1,000
White, total													
Race of mother:													
Reported/Inferred ¹ :													
1999 ²	835,721	4,435	244,829	13,759	92,805	51,875	70,512	152,024	302,246	155,954	78,877	40,012	9,366
1998	821,441	4,514	245,832	14,267	30,952	52,522	67,623	78,734	291,677	153,310	77,883	38,905	9,320
1997	793,202	4,631	240,353	14,510	31,232	50,652	74,709		276,764	147,318	77,543	37,878	8,715
1996	795,432	4,959	236,815	14,510	31,831	50,652	74,116		272,673	148,498	83,108	40,109	9,270
1995	784,992	5,196	236,546	15,291	32,034	51,090	66,435	71,696	271,466	143,006	82,392	37,931	8,455
1994	794,261	5,407	235,263	14,915	32,107	50,947	64,912	72,382	277,364	146,527	83,870	37,594	8,236
1993	742,129	4,868	213,080	13,280	28,656	45,096	59,890	66,158	263,538	139,905	79,136	34,283	7,319
1992	721,986	4,553	206,830	12,664	27,323	43,861	57,566	65,416	258,268	137,639	75,696	32,218	6,782
1991	707,502	4,346	207,035	12,615	27,150	43,058	58,132	66,080	251,228	136,727	72,484	29,607	6,075
1990	669,698	4,157	199,896	11,625	25,063	41,398	56,195	65,615	232,529	131,967	68,400	27,050	5,699
1989	613,543	3,920	188,253	10,904	24,094	40,110	54,599	58,546	211,815	120,640	60,344	23,730	4,841
1988	557,394	3,595	173,981	10,369	23,183	39,087	49,166	52,176	192,584	108,787	53,498	20,812	4,137
1987	513,984	3,466	162,039	10,238	23,672	36,208	44,907	47,014	180,698	98,554	47,424	18,195	3,608
1986	480,533	3,420	153,605	10,414	21,729	33,510	42,393	45,559	172,014	90,379	41,848	16,323	2,944
1985	445,595	3,430	145,457	9,758	20,796	32,119	39,933	42,851	161,046	81,628	37,235	14,242	2,557
1984	403,022	3,258	136,065	9,188	19,640	30,294	37,158	39,785	145,873	71,057	32,102	12,329	2,338
1983	381,276	3,269	134,966	9,247	19,710	30,126	37,292	38,591	136,349	64,850	28,968	10,700	2,174
1982	365,647	3,270	133,457	9,010	19,805	30,108	36,749	37,785	130,731	60,411	26,191	9,508	2,079
1981	346,541	3,090	131,452	9,135	19,792	29,907	35,847	36,771	123,602	54,650	23,909	8,112	1,726
1980	328,984	3,166	130,417	9,356	19,916	29,433	35,088	36,624	116,445	48,722	21,325	7,298	1,611
Race of child:													
Estimated ³ :													
1980	294,200	3,200	125,500	9,300	19,600	28,600	33,500	34,500	103,600	39,200	15,900	5,500	1,200
1979	263,000	3,300	116,400	9,000	18,600	26,700	31,300	30,800	90,200	33,200	13,700	4,900	1,200
1978	233,600	3,300	108,500	8,900	18,200	25,400	28,300	27,600	77,000	28,300	11,400	4,200	1,100
1977	220,100	3,400	107,100	9,500	18,900	25,400	27,500	25,700	69,300	25,200	10,200	3,800	1,100
1976	197,100	3,500	97,600	9,200	17,900	22,900	24,600	23,000	58,900	22,800	9,400	3,900	1,000
1975	186,400	3,600	93,900	9,500	17,400	22,000	23,600	21,400	54,500	21,200	8,600	3,600	1,000
1974	168,500	3,300	85,000	8,600	16,100	20,100	21,000	19,200	49,600	18,600	7,600	3,400	1,000
1973	163,000	3,200	81,100	8,100	15,200	19,100	20,300	18,400	48,300	18,300	7,600	3,400	1,100
1972	160,500	2,700	78,600	7,500	13,800	18,600	19,600	19,100	49,500	17,300	7,700	3,500	1,100
1971	163,800	2,500	76,000	6,500	12,400	17,300	20,000	19,900	55,300	17,200	7,800	3,800	1,300
1970	175,100	2,500	79,300	6,100	12,600	17,500	21,100	22,100	62,100	18,000	7,700	4,000	1,400

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 2. Number of births to unmarried women by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1940 and 1950-99—Con.

Year and race	All ages	Under 15 years	15-19 years							19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years							
All other															
Race of mother—Con.:															
1992	502,890	6,608	147,048	12,795	21,698	30,242	38,443	43,870	177,459	95,828	52,286	20,229	3,432		
1991	506,267	6,622	150,448	12,468	21,899	30,981	39,986	45,114	177,866	97,866	51,417	18,746	3,302		
1990	495,686	6,518	150,074	12,443	21,246	30,623	39,766	45,996	171,344	98,024	49,800	17,099	2,827		
1989	480,626	6,692	149,015	12,454	22,100	31,024	40,216	43,221	166,307	94,837	46,000	15,300	2,475		
1988	447,905	6,312	138,518	12,087	20,918	30,493	36,493	38,527	158,321	87,578	41,376	13,596	2,204		
1987	419,029	6,117	130,919	11,767	20,843	28,012	33,431	36,866	150,559	80,703	36,762	12,076	1,893		
1986	397,944	5,995	127,115	11,834	19,896	26,108	33,100	36,177	144,174	75,283	33,080	10,644	1,653		
1985	382,579	5,956	125,465	11,172	18,834	26,252	33,001	36,206	139,319	70,396	30,080	9,796	1,567		
1984	367,333	5,817	125,039	10,757	19,123	26,353	33,017	35,789	133,319	65,899	27,159	8,587	1,513		
1983	356,617	5,547	126,294	10,831	19,646	27,065	33,424	35,328	129,230	61,669	24,916	7,506	1,455		
1982	349,580	5,450	127,169	11,132	19,945	27,696	33,747	34,649	126,742	58,543	23,368	6,912	1,396		
1981	340,064	5,499	127,787	11,419	20,381	27,974	33,209	34,804	123,317	54,524	21,391	6,169	1,377		
1980	336,763	5,858	132,360	12,552	21,470	29,173	34,085	35,080	120,820	50,861	19,659	5,889	1,316		
Race of child: Estimated ^a															
1980	349,300	6,000	136,900	12,800	22,100	30,200	35,300	36,400	126,300	52,700	20,100	5,900	1,300		
1979	334,800	6,200	136,700	12,800	22,800	30,300	35,100	35,800	119,900	47,400	17,600	5,700	1,300		
1978	310,200	6,100	131,200	12,500	22,100	29,400	33,900	33,400	109,500	41,800	15,200	5,200	1,200		
1977	295,500	6,700	132,600	13,400	23,500	30,200	33,300	32,200	99,200	37,200	13,500	5,000	1,300		
1976	271,000	6,800	127,400	13,700	23,800	29,000	31,300	29,600	86,500	32,700	11,600	4,700	1,300		
1975	261,600	7,500	128,600	14,300	24,000	29,600	31,900	28,800	79,500	29,000	11,200	4,500	1,300		
1974	249,600	7,300	125,700	14,600	24,000	29,700	30,500	27,000	73,200	26,400	11,000	4,700	1,300		
1973	244,300	7,700	123,800	15,000	24,400	29,600	28,800	26,000	70,800	24,800	11,000	4,800	1,400		
1972	242,700	7,200	123,600	14,900	24,600	29,000	29,600	25,500	70,000	23,900	11,200	5,100	1,500		
1971	237,500	7,100	118,100	13,900	23,200	27,600	27,900	25,600	69,800	23,700	11,500	5,600	1,700		
1970	223,600	7,000	111,100	13,200	21,500	25,300	26,400	24,700	64,600	22,600	11,300	5,400	1,700		
1969	197,200	6,200	97,800	11,700	18,400	22,400	23,900	21,500	56,200	20,100	10,000	5,200	1,700		
1968	183,900	5,800	90,600	10,900	17,300	21,300	21,700	19,500	51,100	19,300	10,500	5,900	1,800		
1967	175,800	5,200	84,000	9,900	16,700	19,500	19,800	18,200	49,100	19,300	10,500	5,900	1,700		
1966	169,500	4,800	78,300	9,300	15,200	18,000	18,800	17,000	46,700	20,700	11,100	6,100	1,900		
1965	167,500	4,600	72,400	8,900	14,100	17,200	17,500	14,700	47,300	21,900	12,400	6,900	2,000		
1964	161,300	4,400	66,200	8,100	13,300	15,800	14,800	14,300	47,300	22,100	12,700	6,700	2,000		
1963	154,900	4,200	61,000	7,500	11,800	13,400	14,500	13,800	45,800	22,300	12,800	6,700	2,000		
1962	150,400	3,900	57,600	7,100	10,400	12,900	13,800	13,500	45,000	22,100	12,900	7,100	1,800		
1961	149,100	3,800	57,100	6,400	10,300	12,900	14,400	13,100	44,100	22,100	13,100	7,000	1,900		
1960	141,800	3,500	54,300	6,100	10,000	12,600	13,100	12,600	41,300	21,300	13,100	6,700	1,700		
1959	141,100	3,400	53,600	6,300	10,100	12,300	12,900	12,100	41,100	21,500	13,100	6,700	1,700		
1958	134,100	3,300	50,900	6,000	9,400	11,500	12,400	11,600	38,600	20,800	12,600	6,300	1,600		
1957	130,900	3,500	49,600	6,000	9,600	11,200	11,700	11,000	37,800	20,100	12,200	6,300	1,600		
1956	126,000	3,200	47,600	5,600	9,300	10,700	11,600	10,400	36,600	19,900	11,600	5,600	1,500		
1955	119,200	3,000	45,300	5,400	8,300	10,500	10,900	10,300	34,700	18,900	10,700	5,300	1,400		

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Number of births to unmarried women by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1940 and 1950-99—Con.

Year and race	All ages	Under 15 years	15-19 years							20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
			Age of mother											
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years						
All other														
Race of child—Con:														
1954	113,900	3,100	44,000		23,400			20,600	32,700	17,700	10,300	4,900	1,200	
1953	104,200	2,700	40,800		21,800			19,000	29,900	16,300	8,700	4,400	1,300	
1952	96,200	2,600	39,000		21,800			17,200	27,000	14,700	8,000	3,900	900	
1951	93,900	2,600	37,700		20,300			17,400	26,600	14,200	7,700	4,000	1,200	
1950	88,100	2,500	36,100		19,900			16,200	25,300	13,000	6,600	3,600	1,000	
1940	49,200	1,600	24,500						12,500	5,300	2,900	1,700	600	
Black														
Race of mother:														
Reported/Inferred ¹														
1999 ²	417,270	3,961	115,744		45,195			70,549	155,559	78,950	39,584	19,287	4,186	
1998	421,383	4,270	121,458	8,543	16,183	24,542	33,382	38,808	151,903	79,344	40,927	19,367	4,114	
1997	415,054	4,682	122,986	9,306	17,410	26,006	33,227	37,037	145,647	76,977	41,520	19,223	4,019	
1996	415,213	5,147	124,602	10,359	18,377	26,068	32,835	36,963	142,903	76,489	43,057	19,353	3,662	
1995	421,489	5,876	127,241	11,383	19,581	26,802	33,543	35,932	145,134	75,815	44,690	19,271	3,462	
1994	448,315	6,404	134,371	12,154	20,428	28,592	34,770	38,427	156,304	81,599	47,044	19,242	3,351	
1993	452,476	6,293	133,031	12,018	20,489	27,905	34,509	38,110	159,598	84,604	47,330	18,526	3,094	
1992	458,969	6,296	135,994	12,059	20,158	27,985	35,422	40,370	162,561	86,853	46,860	17,608	2,797	
1991	463,750	6,298	139,325	11,701	20,402	28,714	36,902	41,606	163,532	89,198	46,370	16,357	2,670	
1990	455,304	6,240	139,442	11,732	19,894	28,476	36,875	42,465	157,819	89,614	44,930	14,946	2,313	
1989	442,395	6,458	138,718	11,797	20,735	28,840	37,398	39,948	153,551	86,846	41,468	13,333	2,021	
1988	413,157	6,057	129,333	11,498	19,680	28,470	33,914	35,771	146,697	80,125	37,290	11,822	1,822	
1987	387,468	5,861	122,502	11,188	19,722	26,134	31,207	34,251	139,771	74,133	33,112	10,511	1,578	
1986	369,786	5,762	119,357	11,310	18,749	24,499	31,022	33,777	134,380	69,623	29,892	9,387	1,385	
1985	356,205	5,753	118,058	10,653	17,881	24,695	30,867	33,962	130,032	65,126	27,262	8,650	1,324	
1984	342,524	5,599	117,844	10,285	18,179	24,842	31,026	33,512	124,541	61,091	24,580	7,579	1,290	
1983	333,183	5,324	119,216	10,383	18,636	25,527	31,542	33,128	120,905	57,122	22,586	6,735	1,295	
1982	327,998	5,272	120,243	10,685	19,015	26,218	31,796	32,529	119,133	54,500	21,366	6,229	1,255	
1981	321,383	5,323	121,738	11,016	19,543	26,662	31,553	32,964	116,568	51,170	19,712	5,633	1,239	
1980	318,799	5,691	126,276	12,137	20,602	27,809	32,457	33,271	114,538	47,594	18,160	5,338	1,202	
Race of child:														
Estimated ³ :														
1980	327,000	5,800	129,700	12,400	21,100	28,600	33,400	34,200	118,300	48,500	18,300	5,200	1,200	
1979	315,800	6,100	130,100	12,300	21,800	28,800	33,200	33,900	113,100	44,000	16,100	5,200	1,200	
1978	293,400	5,900	125,200	12,000	21,100	28,100	32,300	31,700	103,500	38,900	14,000	4,800	1,200	
1977	281,600	6,500	127,200	12,900	22,600	28,900	31,900	30,800	94,600	35,000	12,600	4,700	1,200	
1976	258,800	6,600	122,700	13,200	22,900	28,000	30,200	28,400	82,400	30,800	10,700	4,400	1,200	
1975	249,600	7,200	123,800	13,800	23,200	28,500	30,600	27,600	75,600	27,100	10,500	4,200	1,200	
1974	238,800	7,100	121,200	14,200	23,300	28,600	29,300	25,900	69,700	24,900	10,200	4,400	1,200	
1973	234,500	7,500	119,800	14,600	23,700	28,700	27,900	25,000	67,500	23,400	10,400	4,500	1,400	
1972	233,300	7,100	119,900	14,600	23,900	28,100	28,700	24,500	67,000	22,600	10,500	4,800	1,500	
1971	229,000	6,900	114,900	13,600	22,600	26,900	27,000	24,800	67,000	22,400	10,900	5,300	1,500	
1970	215,100	6,800	107,800	13,000	20,900	24,500	25,600	23,900	61,800	21,300	10,700	5,100	1,600	
1969	189,400	6,100	95,000	11,500	17,900	21,800	23,200	20,700	53,500	18,900	9,400	4,900	1,600	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Number of births to unmarried women by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1940 and 1950-99—Con.

Year and race	All ages	Under 15 years	Age of mother							20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over	
			15-19 years												
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years							
Hispanic															
Reported/Inferred ¹ :															
1999 ²	320,870	2,529	90,641		39,377			51,264	111,933	65,015	32,832	14,677	3,243		
1998.....	305,442	2,516	88,529	6,742	13,384		19,251	23,736	106,020	61,079	30,725	13,403	3,170		
1997.....	290,437	2,586	84,594	6,820	13,036		19,003	22,030	99,740	57,331	29,920	13,242	3,024		
1996.....	285,501	2,639	80,501	6,444	12,345		17,484	20,989	96,904	57,872	31,160	13,392	3,033		
1995.....	277,602	2,741	79,669	6,718	12,418		17,214	20,881	93,742	55,431	30,375	12,845	2,799		
1994.....	286,469	2,805	80,319	6,613	12,366		17,468	20,889	96,594	58,474	31,899	13,437	2,941		
1993.....	261,586	2,358	69,523	5,416	10,548		14,902	18,430	89,946	55,826	29,862	12,389	2,682		
1992 ⁴	251,737	2,222	66,449	5,266	10,019		14,145	17,613	86,293	53,922	28,464	11,827	2,560		
1991 ⁴	239,881	1,982	64,031	4,952	9,577		13,554	16,953	82,704	51,559	26,566	10,675	2,364		
1990 ⁵	218,515	1,892	58,039	4,385	8,368		12,350	15,433	74,871	47,451	24,522	9,631	2,109		

--- Data not available.

¹Data for States in which marital status was not reported have been inferred from other items on the birth certificate and included with data from the reporting States; see Technical notes.²Data are preliminary. Figures are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to totals; see reference 3.³Births to unmarried women are estimated for the United States from data for registration areas in which marital status of mother was reported; see reference 25.⁴Excludes data for New Hampshire which did not report Hispanic origin on the birth certificate.⁵Excludes data for New Hampshire and Oklahoma which did not report Hispanic origin on the birth certificate.

NOTE: Figures by age may not add to estimated totals for years prior to 1980 because of rounding; see reference 25.

SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System.

Table 3. Birth rates for unmarried women by age of mother: United States, 1940–98, and by age of mother and race and Hispanic origin, 1940, 1950, and 1955–98

[Rates are live births per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group]

Year and race		Age of mother								
		15–44 years ¹	15–19 years			20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years ²
			Total	15–17 years	18–19 years					
All races										
Reported/Inferred ³ :										
1998	44.3	41.5	27.0	64.5	72.3	58.4	39.1	19.0	4.6	
1997	44.0	42.2	28.2	65.2	71.0	56.2	39.0	19.0	4.6	
1996	44.8	42.9	29.0	65.9	70.7	56.8	41.1	20.1	4.8	
1995	45.1	44.4	30.5	67.6	70.3	56.1	39.6	19.5	4.7	
1994	46.9	46.4	32.0	70.1	72.2	59.0	40.1	19.8	4.7	
1993	45.3	44.5	30.6	66.9	69.2	57.1	38.5	19.0	4.4	
1992	45.2	44.6	30.4	67.3	68.5	56.5	37.9	18.8	4.1	
1991	45.2	44.8	30.9	65.7	68.0	56.5	38.1	18.0	3.8	
1990	43.8	42.5	29.6	60.7	65.1	56.0	37.6	17.3	3.6	
1989	41.6	40.1	28.7	56.0	61.2	52.8	34.9	16.0	3.4	
1988	38.5	36.4	26.4	51.5	56.0	48.5	32.0	15.0	3.2	
1987	36.0	33.8	24.5	48.9	52.6	44.5	29.6	13.5	2.9	
1986	34.2	32.3	22.8	48.0	49.3	42.2	27.2	12.2	2.7	
1985	32.8	31.4	22.4	45.9	46.5	39.9	25.2	11.6	2.5	
1984	31.0	30.0	21.9	42.5	43.0	37.1	23.3	10.9	2.5	
1983	30.3	29.5	22.0	40.7	41.8	35.5	22.4	10.2	2.6	
1982	30.0	28.7	21.5	39.6	41.5	35.1	21.9	10.0	2.7	
1981	29.5	27.9	20.9	39.0	41.1	34.5	20.8	9.8	2.6	
1980	29.4	27.6	20.6	39.0	40.9	34.0	21.1	9.7	2.6	
Estimated ⁴ :										
1980	28.4	27.5	20.7	38.7	39.7	31.4	18.5	8.4	2.3	
1979	27.2	26.4	19.9	37.2	37.7	29.9	17.7	8.4	2.3	
1978	25.7	24.9	19.1	35.1	35.3	28.5	16.9	8.2	2.2	
1977	25.6	25.1	19.8	34.6	34.0	27.7	16.9	8.4	2.4	
1976	24.3	23.7	19.0	32.1	31.7	26.8	17.5	9.0	2.5	
1975	24.5	23.9	19.3	32.5	31.2	27.5	17.9	9.1	2.6	
1974	23.9	23.0	18.8	31.2	30.5	27.9	18.4	10.0	2.6	
1973	24.3	22.7	18.7	30.4	31.5	29.6	20.3	10.8	3.0	
1972	24.8	22.8	18.5	30.9	33.2	30.8	22.6	12.0	3.1	
1971	25.5	22.3	17.5	31.7	35.5	34.5	25.2	13.3	3.5	
1970	26.4	22.4	17.1	32.9	38.4	37.0	27.1	13.6	3.5	
1969	24.8	20.4	15.2	30.8	37.3	37.9	27.0	13.5	3.6	
1968	24.3	19.7	14.7	29.6	37.2	38.3	27.8	14.8	3.8	
1967	23.7	18.5	13.8	27.6	38.1	41.1	28.9	15.3	4.0	
1966	23.3	17.5	13.1	25.6	39.0	45.1	32.7	16.3	4.1	
1965	23.4	16.7	---	---	39.6	49.1	37.2	17.4	4.5	
1964	23.0	15.9	---	---	39.5	49.9	36.9	16.3	4.4	
1963	22.5	15.3	---	---	39.9	48.8	33.1	16.1	4.3	
1962	21.9	14.8	---	---	40.7	46.6	29.6	15.6	4.1	
1961	22.7	16.0	---	---	41.4	46.4	28.2	15.4	3.9	
1960	21.6	15.3	---	---	39.7	45.1	27.8	14.1	3.6	
1959	21.9	15.5	---	---	40.2	44.1	28.1	14.1	3.3	
1958	21.2	15.3	---	---	38.2	40.5	27.5	13.3	3.2	
1957	21.0	15.8	---	---	37.3	36.8	26.8	12.1	3.1	
1956	20.4	15.6	---	---	36.4	35.6	24.6	11.1	2.8	
1955	19.3	15.1	---	---	33.5	33.5	22.0	10.5	2.7	
1954	18.7	14.9	---	---	31.4	31.0	20.4	10.3	2.5	
1953	16.9	13.9	---	---	28.0	27.6	17.3	9.0	2.4	
1952	15.8	13.5	---	---	25.4	24.8	15.7	8.2	1.9	
1951	15.1	13.2	---	---	23.2	22.8	14.6	7.6	2.2	
1950	14.1	12.6	---	---	21.3	19.9	13.3	7.2	2.0	
1949	13.3	12.0	---	---	21.0	18.0	11.4	6.8	1.9	
1948	12.5	11.4	---	---	19.8	16.4	10.0	5.8	1.6	
1947	12.1	11.0	---	---	18.9	15.7	9.2	5.6	1.8	
1946	10.9	9.5	---	---	17.3	15.6	7.3	4.4	1.8	
1945	10.1	9.5	---	---	15.3	12.1	7.1	4.1	1.6	
1944	9.0	8.8	---	---	13.1	10.1	7.0	4.0	1.3	
1943	8.3	8.4	---	---	11.4	8.8	6.7	3.8	1.3	
1942	8.0	8.2	---	---	11.0	8.4	6.3	3.8	1.2	
1941	7.8	8.0	---	---	10.5	7.8	6.0	3.7	1.4	
1940	7.1	7.4	---	---	9.5	7.2	5.1	3.4	1.2	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Birth rates for unmarried women by age of mother: United States, 1940-98, and by age of mother and race and Hispanic origin, 1940, 1950, and 1955-98—Con.

[Rates are live births per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group]

Year and race	15-44 years ¹	Age of mother							
		15-19 years			20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years ²
		Total	15-17 years	18-19 years					
White, total									
Race of mother: Reported/Inferred ³ :									
1998	37.5	34.0	21.8	53.5	60.5	50.9	34.9	17.0	4.0
1997	37.0	34.2	22.4	53.6	59.2	49.3	34.4	16.7	3.9
1996	37.6	34.5	22.7	54.1	59.0	49.9	36.1	17.8	4.3
1995	37.5	35.5	23.6	55.4	58.0	48.7	34.2	16.9	4.2
1994	38.3	36.2	24.1	56.4	58.1	49.7	34.2	17.3	4.3
1993	35.9	33.6	22.1	52.4	54.2	46.7	32.2	16.4	3.9
1992	35.2	33.0	21.6	51.5	52.7	45.4	31.5	16.2	3.6
1991	34.6	32.8	21.8	49.6	51.5	44.6	31.1	15.2	3.2
1990	32.9	30.6	20.4	44.9	48.2	43.0	29.9	14.5	3.2
1989	30.2	28.0	19.3	40.2	43.8	39.1	26.8	13.1	2.9
1988	27.4	25.3	17.6	36.8	39.2	35.4	24.2	12.1	2.7
1987	25.3	23.2	16.2	34.5	36.6	32.0	22.3	10.7	2.4
1986	23.9	21.8	14.9	33.5	34.2	30.5	20.1	9.7	2.2
1985	22.5	20.8	14.5	31.2	31.7	28.5	18.4	9.0	2.0
1984	20.6	19.3	13.7	27.9	28.5	25.5	16.8	8.4	2.0
1983	19.8	18.7	13.6	26.4	27.1	23.8	15.9	7.8	2.0
1982	19.3	18.0	13.1	25.3	26.5	23.1	15.3	7.4	2.1
1981	18.6	17.2	12.6	24.6	25.8	22.3	14.2	7.2	1.9
1980	18.1	16.5	12.0	24.1	25.1	21.5	14.1	7.1	1.8
Race of child: Estimated ⁴ :									
1980	16.2	15.9	11.7	22.8	22.4	17.3	10.5	5.3	1.4
1979	14.9	14.6	10.8	21.0	20.3	15.9	10.0	5.1	1.4
1978	13.7	13.6	10.3	19.3	18.1	14.8	9.4	4.8	1.3
1977	13.5	13.4	10.5	18.7	17.4	14.4	9.3	4.9	1.4
1976	12.6	12.3	9.7	16.9	15.8	14.0	10.1	5.5	1.4
1975	12.4	12.0	9.6	16.5	15.5	14.8	9.8	5.4	1.5
1974	11.7	11.0	8.8	15.3	15.0	14.7	9.5	5.5	1.5
1973	11.8	10.6	8.4	14.9	15.5	15.9	10.6	5.9	1.7
1972	11.9	10.4	8.0	15.1	16.6	16.5	12.1	6.5	1.6
1971	12.5	10.3	7.4	15.8	18.7	18.5	13.2	7.2	1.9
1970	13.9	10.9	7.5	17.6	22.5	21.1	14.2	7.6	2.0
1969	13.4	9.9	6.6	16.6	23.0	22.5	15.1	7.6	2.0
1968	13.1	9.7	6.2	16.6	23.0	22.1	15.0	4.7	
1967	12.5	8.9	5.6	15.3	23.0	22.7	14.0	4.7	
1966	11.9	8.5	5.4	14.1	22.6	23.4	15.7	4.9	
1965	11.6	7.9	---	---	22.0	24.3	16.6	4.9	
1964	11.0	7.4	---	---	21.1	24.0	15.9	4.8	
1963	10.5	7.0	---	---	20.7	21.9	14.2	4.6	
1962	9.8	6.5	---	---	19.9	19.8	12.6	4.3	
1961	10.0	7.1	---	---	19.7	19.4	11.3	4.2	
1960	9.2	6.6	---	---	18.2	18.2	10.8	3.9	
1959	9.2	6.5	---	---	18.3	17.6	10.7	3.6	
1958	8.8	6.3	---	---	17.3	15.8	10.8	3.4	
1957	8.6	6.4	---	---	16.6	14.6	10.5	3.0	
1956	8.3	6.2	---	---	16.3	14.0	9.2	3.0	
1955	7.9	6.0	---	---	15.0	13.3	8.6	2.8	
1950	6.1	5.1	---	---	10.0	8.7	5.9	2.0	
1940	3.6	3.3	---	---	5.7	4.0	2.5	1.2	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Birth rates for unmarried women by age of mother: United States, 1940-98, and by age of mother and race and Hispanic origin, 1940, 1950, and 1955-98—Con.

[Rates are live births per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group]

Year and race	15-44 years ¹	Age of mother							
		15-19 years			20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years ²
		Total	15-17 years	18-19 years					
White, non-Hispanic									
Reported/Inferred ³ :									
1998	27.4	25.7	15.3	42.0	45.2	35.4	24.7	12.8	3.0
1997	27.0	25.9	15.9	42.3	43.8	34.4	24.5	12.4	2.8
1996	28.3	27.0	16.9	43.8	44.5	35.7	26.6	13.9	3.3
1995	28.2	27.7	17.6	44.5	43.8	34.9	25.3	13.0	3.2
1994	28.5	28.1	18.0	45.0	43.8	35.0	24.8	12.9	3.1
1991-93	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1990	24.4	25.0	16.2	37.0	36.4	30.3	20.5	6.1	---
Black									
Race of mother:									
Reported/Inferred ³ :									
1998	73.3	83.4	56.5	123.5	131.0	90.3	51.7	24.7	6.1
1997	73.4	86.4	60.6	127.2	127.8	85.2	52.3	24.7	6.5
1996	74.4	89.2	64.0	129.2	125.8	84.5	54.5	25.5	6.1
1995	75.9	92.8	68.6	131.2	127.7	84.8	54.3	25.6	6.0
1994	82.1	100.9	75.1	141.6	138.1	93.6	57.2	26.3	5.9
1993	84.0	102.4	76.8	141.6	142.2	94.5	57.3	25.9	5.8
1992	86.5	105.9	78.0	147.8	144.3	98.2	57.7	25.8	5.4
1991	89.5	108.5	80.4	148.7	147.5	100.9	60.1	25.6	5.4
1990	90.5	106.0	78.8	143.7	144.8	105.3	61.5	25.5	5.1
1989	90.7	104.5	78.9	140.9	142.4	102.9	60.5	24.9	5.0
1988	86.5	96.1	73.5	130.5	133.6	97.2	57.4	24.1	5.0
1987	82.6	90.9	69.9	123.0	126.1	91.6	53.1	22.4	4.7
1986	79.0	88.5	67.0	121.1	118.0	84.6	50.0	20.6	4.4
1985	77.0	87.6	66.8	117.9	113.1	79.3	47.5	20.4	4.3
1984	75.2	86.1	66.5	113.6	107.9	77.8	43.8	19.4	4.3
1983	76.2	85.5	66.8	111.9	107.2	79.7	43.8	19.4	4.8
1982	77.9	85.1	66.3	112.7	109.3	82.7	44.1	19.5	5.2
1981	79.4	85.0	65.9	114.2	110.7	83.1	45.5	19.6	5.6
1980	81.1	87.9	68.8	118.2	112.3	81.4	46.7	19.0	5.5
Race of child:									
Estimated ⁴ :									
1980	83.2	90.3	70.6	121.8	116.0	82.9	47.0	18.5	5.5
1979	83.0	91.0	71.0	123.3	114.1	80.0	44.8	19.3	5.9
1978	81.1	87.9	68.8	119.6	111.4	79.6	43.9	18.5	6.2
1977	82.6	90.9	73.0	121.7	110.1	78.6	45.7	19.0	6.6
1976	81.6	89.7	73.5	117.9	107.2	78.0	45.0	19.2	7.0
1975	84.2	93.5	76.8	123.8	108.0	75.7	50.0	20.5	7.2
1974	85.5	93.8	78.6	122.2	109.8	80.3	51.8	24.3	6.7
1973	88.6	94.9	81.2	120.5	116.0	84.5	57.8	27.6	7.7
1972	91.6	98.2	82.8	128.2	121.2	88.3	57.4	30.4	8.5
1971	96.1	98.6	80.7	135.2	130.6	99.6	68.6	32.7	10.1
1970	95.5	96.9	77.9	136.4	131.5	100.9	71.8	32.9	10.4
1969	90.6	90.3	72.0	128.4	125.3	99.5	70.1	34.3	10.1

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 3. Birth rates for unmarried women by age of mother: United States, 1940–98, and by age of mother and race and Hispanic origin, 1940, 1950, and 1955–98—Con.

[Rates are live births per 1,000 unmarried women in specified group]

Year and race	15–44 years ¹	Age of mother							
		15–19 years			20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–39 years	40–44 years ²
		Total	15–17 years	18–19 years					
Hispanic ⁵									
Reported/Inferred ³ :									
1998	90.1	73.9	53.0	107.8	135.0	136.0	85.4	40.1	12.0
1997	91.4	75.2	55.0	109.5	139.1	135.0	86.1	42.0	12.2
1996	93.2	74.5	53.4	110.4	146.5	139.1	90.8	42.3	12.3
1995	95.0	78.7	56.3	117.9	148.9	133.8	89.2	43.4	12.2
1994	101.2	82.6	59.0	123.6	154.8	141.6	95.5	48.4	14.0
1993	95.2	74.6	51.9	114.6	140.5	137.7	90.9	47.8	14.1
1992	95.3	72.9	51.0	110.5	142.2	138.3	91.8	48.1	14.5
1991	93.7	72.4	50.5	109.6	135.4	137.5	89.1	47.7	14.2
1990	89.6	65.9	45.9	98.9	129.8	131.7	88.1	50.8	13.7

--- Data not available.

¹Rates computed by relating births to unmarried women, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women aged 15–44 years.²Rates computed by relating births to unmarried women aged 40 years and over to unmarried women aged 40–44 years. Rates by race for years prior to 1969 are computed by relating births to unmarried women aged 35 years and over to unmarried women aged 35–44 years.³Data for States in which marital status was not reported have been inferred from other items on the birth certificate and included with data from the reporting States; see Technical notes.⁴Births to unmarried women are estimated for the United States from data for registration areas in which marital status of mother was reported; see Technical notes.⁵Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System.

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Table 4. Percent of births to unmarried women by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1940 and 1950-99

			Age of mother										
Year and race	All ages	Under 15 years	15-19 years						20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
			Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years					
All races													
Reported/Inferred ¹ :													
1999 ²	33.0	96.4	78.6		87.6		73.9		48.4	22.8	13.9	14.3	16.4
1998	32.8	96.6	78.5	93.5	89.1	84.9	78.2	69.9	47.7	22.5	14.0	14.4	16.7
1997	32.4	95.7	77.8	93.0	88.5	84.0	77.5	68.6	46.6	22.0	14.1	14.6	17.1
1996	32.4	93.8	75.9	90.3	86.1	81.7	75.3	67.2	45.6	22.0	14.8	15.7	18.4
1995	32.2	93.5	75.2	89.8	85.6	80.6	74.6	65.9	44.7	21.5	14.7	15.7	18.1
1994	32.6	94.5	75.5	90.7	85.9	81.0	74.8	66.3	44.9	21.8	15.1	16.1	18.7
1993	31.0	91.3	71.3	87.0	81.8	76.5	70.5	62.6	42.2	20.7	14.7	15.6	18.1
1992	30.1	91.3	70.0	87.0	81.5	75.5	69.2	61.0	40.7	19.8	14.3	15.2	17.7
1991	29.5	91.3	68.8	87.1	81.1	74.9	68.1	59.4	39.4	19.2	14.0	14.6	17.4
1990	28.0	91.6	67.1	86.9	80.0	73.7	66.2	57.7	36.9	18.0	13.3	13.9	17.0
1989	27.1	92.4	66.6	87.4	80.7	73.3	65.7	56.2	35.1	17.1	12.6	13.3	15.9
1988	25.7	93.6	65.3	87.7	80.0	72.6	64.2	53.9	32.9	15.9	11.8	12.8	15.6
1987	24.5	92.9	63.4	86.7	79.0	70.7	61.5	51.7	30.8	14.7	11.1	12.2	15.2
1986	23.4	92.5	60.8	85.7	76.8	67.4	59.1	49.4	28.7	13.8	10.4	11.7	14.8
1985	22.0	91.8	58.0	83.7	74.1	65.4	56.3	46.5	26.3	12.7	9.7	11.2	14.0
1984	21.0	91.1	55.6	82.6	72.9	63.4	53.9	43.7	24.5	11.8	9.0	10.7	13.8
1983	20.3	90.4	53.4	81.3	71.6	61.5	51.7	41.1	22.9	11.0	8.6	10.1	13.4
1982	19.4	89.2	50.7	80.3	69.3	58.6	48.6	38.6	21.4	10.3	8.2	9.8	13.4
1981	18.9	89.2	49.2	79.2	67.4	56.8	47.0	37.1	20.4	9.7	7.8	9.8	12.7
1980	18.4	88.7	47.6	77.8	65.5	54.9	45.1	35.7	19.4	9.0	7.5	9.4	12.1
Estimated ³													
1980	17.8	90.5	47.5	78.8	66.0	55.0	44.9	35.3	18.8	8.3	6.5	8.1	10.7
1979	17.1	88.8	46.1	76.8	64.6	52.8	43.3	34.0	17.7	7.5	6.1	7.9	10.3
1978	16.3	87.3	44.1	74.1	61.9	50.4	41.0	32.2	16.4	6.9	5.6	7.5	9.6
1977	15.5	88.2	42.9	74.3	60.5	49.2	39.6	30.2	14.7	6.1	5.3	7.3	9.0
1976	14.8	86.4	40.3	71.9	58.6	46.2	36.4	27.8	13.3	5.7	5.4	7.4	8.9
1975	14.3	87.0	38.2	71.2	55.8	43.1	34.3	26.1	12.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	8.2
1974	13.2	84.6	35.4	68.5	52.8	40.0	31.3	23.5	11.1	4.9	5.0	6.9	7.8
1973	13.0	84.8	33.9	66.2	50.8	38.7	29.3	22.4	10.8	4.9	5.0	6.5	7.7
1972	12.4	81.9	32.8	66.7	50.1	37.7	28.5	21.5	10.2	4.6	5.1	6.1	6.9
1971	11.3	82.1	30.9	65.6	49.1	36.5	27.1	20.2	9.2	4.3	4.8	5.8	6.6
1970	10.7	80.8	29.5	63.4	34.7	27.1	20.9	16.2	8.9	4.1	4.5	5.2	5.7
1969	10.0	79.3	27.8	62.8	46.1	33.5	24.5	18.5	8.6	3.9	4.2	4.9	5.4
1968	9.7	81.0	26.7	62.5	45.3	32.7	23.6	17.6	8.3	3.9	4.1	4.7	5.1
1967	9.0	80.3	24.2	59.7	42.6	30.3	21.4	15.6	7.8	4.0	3.9	4.4	4.6
1966	8.4	76.3	21.9	57.8	40.6	27.8	19.2	13.9	7.1	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.3
1965	7.7	78.5	20.8	56.4	37.4	25.8	17.6	13.3	6.8	4.0	3.7	4.0	4.3
1964	6.9	74.2	19.0	53.0	34.9	23.2	16.1	11.8	6.1	3.6	3.3	3.6	3.9
1963	6.3	71.1	17.4	50.2	31.5	21.6	15.3	10.6	5.7	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.7
1962	5.9	69.5	15.7	47.0	30.6	20.5	13.8	9.6	5.4	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.4
1961	5.6	69.7	15.5	46.6	29.2	19.4	13.6	9.7	5.1	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.2
1960	5.3	67.9	14.8	44.4	28.1	18.2	12.9	9.2	4.8	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.1
1959	5.2	67.9	14.8	43.7	27.5	18.6	12.7	9.0	4.8	2.9	2.7	2.9	3.0
1958	5.0	66.2	14.3	42.6	26.9	17.7	12.4	8.8	4.6	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.9
1957	4.7	66.1	13.9	42.6	26.8	17.4	12.0	8.2	4.4	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.9
1956	4.7	66.1	14.0	42.2	26.8	17.3	12.1	8.4	4.4	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.6
1955	4.5	66.3	14.2	42.8	26.5	17.8	12.4	8.7	4.4	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.6
1954	4.4	64.4	14.1		23.2		10.1		4.2	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.4
1953	4.1	64.0	13.5		22.3		9.6		4.0	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.4
1952	3.9	64.5	13.4		22.8		9.2		3.8	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.9
1951	3.9	63.8	12.9		21.8		9.1		3.7	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.3
1950	4.0	63.7	13.4		22.6		9.4		3.8	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.1
1940	3.8	64.5	13.5		---		---		3.7	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Percent of births to unmarried women by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1940 and 1950-99—Con.

		Age of mother											
		All ages	Under 15 years	15-19 years					20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
Year and race				Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years					
White													
Race of mother:													
Reported/Inferred ¹ :													
1999 ²	26.7	93.9	72.6		83.2			67.3	40.4	17.9	10.7	11.2	13.2
1998	26.3	94.0	72.2	90.3	84.9	79.9	72.0	62.4	39.6	17.4	10.6	11.1	13.6
1997	25.8	92.2	71.1	89.4	83.7	78.5	70.9	60.9	38.4	16.9	10.5	11.2	13.6
1996	25.7	89.7	68.7	85.5	80.8	75.6	68.3	59.3	37.5	16.9	11.1	12.2	15.3
1995	25.3	88.8	67.7	84.4	79.7	74.2	67.4	57.9	36.5	16.4	10.9	12.0	15.0
1994	25.4	90.4	67.6	85.5	79.9	74.1	67.2	57.9	36.3	16.5	11.1	12.3	15.5
1993	23.6	84.6	62.3	79.7	74.0	68.4	61.9	53.5	33.4	15.2	10.6	11.7	14.9
1992	22.6	84.8	60.4	79.3	73.3	66.9	60.0	51.1	31.7	14.3	10.2	11.4	14.6
1991	21.8	83.8	58.8	79.6	72.7	65.6	58.4	49.3	30.2	13.7	9.8	10.9	14.1
1990	20.4	83.6	56.4	78.5	70.7	64.0	55.9	47.2	27.8	12.6	9.3	10.3	14.1
1989	19.2	84.7	55.3	78.6	70.6	62.9	55.0	45.2	25.7	11.6	8.6	9.8	13.1
1988	18.0	86.5	53.7	78.6	69.6	61.8	53.2	42.9	23.5	10.6	8.0	9.4	12.7
1987	16.9	84.6	51.4	77.0	68.4	59.7	50.2	40.0	21.6	9.7	7.4	8.9	12.4
1986	15.9	83.6	48.3	75.6	65.1	55.8	47.2	37.7	19.8	9.0	6.9	8.6	12.0
1985	14.7	82.4	44.8	72.2	61.8	52.8	43.6	34.3	17.7	8.1	6.3	8.1	10.9
1984	13.6	80.8	41.7	70.3	59.4	50.0	40.4	31.2	16.0	7.2	5.8	7.6	10.6
1983	12.9	80.0	39.3	68.2	57.5	47.6	38.1	28.8	14.6	6.7	5.5	7.2	10.2
1982	12.3	77.7	36.7	66.5	54.8	44.3	35.1	26.7	13.4	6.2	5.1	6.9	10.3
1981	11.8	76.5	35.0	64.4	52.3	42.4	33.5	25.2	12.6	5.7	4.9	6.8	9.1
1980	11.2	75.4	33.1	61.6	49.6	39.8	31.4	24.0	11.7	5.2	4.6	6.4	8.6
Race of child:													
Estimated ³ :													
1980	10.2	76.7	32.3	62.1	49.4	39.2	30.4	23.0	10.5	4.2	3.5	4.9	6.5
1979	9.4	75.0	30.3	59.4	47.1	36.4	28.5	21.1	9.5	3.7	3.2	4.5	6.4
1978	8.7	73.1	28.6	56.5	44.6	34.1	26.2	19.6	8.4	3.3	2.8	4.1	6.0
1977	8.2	72.8	27.3	56.2	42.9	32.9	25.0	17.9	7.5	2.9	2.7	3.9	5.6
1976	7.7	69.3	24.8	52.8	39.9	29.5	22.2	16.1	6.6	2.7	2.8	4.2	5.0
1975	7.3	71.0	22.9	51.9	37.0	26.5	20.2	14.8	6.1	2.6	2.7	3.9	4.6
1974	6.5	65.3	20.2	47.6	33.5	23.3	17.6	12.9	5.4	2.3	2.4	3.6	4.3
1973	6.4	65.2	19.1	44.3	31.2	22.1	16.7	12.3	5.3	2.4	2.4	3.3	4.1
1972	6.0	59.0	18.1	43.1	29.3	21.5	15.6	12.1	5.1	2.2	2.4	3.1	3.5
1971	5.6	60.5	17.0	41.9	28.2	20.5	15.4	11.5	4.9	2.1	2.3	2.9	3.6
1970	5.7	57.9	17.1	41.7	28.7	20.6	15.6	12.0	5.2	2.1	2.1	2.7	3.3
1969	5.5	57.0	16.2	39.1	27.8	19.7	14.6	11.7	5.3	2.1	2.1	2.6	3.0
1968	5.3	61.0	15.8	38.7	27.2	19.2	14.4	11.6	5.1	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.8
1967	4.9	61.6	13.9	35.5	23.7	17.7	12.9	10.1	4.7	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.6
1966	4.4	52.5	12.4	34.1	22.7	16.0	11.3	9.0	4.2	2.0	1.8	2.1	2.3
1965	4.0	57.3	11.4	32.2	20.1	14.1	10.4	8.1	3.8	1.9	1.6	1.9	2.2
1964	3.4	52.3	10.2	30.0	18.4	13.3	8.9	6.8	3.3	1.7	1.4	1.7	2.1
1963	3.0	48.7	9.0	29.5	17.2	11.3	8.1	6.0	3.0	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.9
1962	2.7	48.0	7.8	25.6	15.2	10.4	7.2	5.2	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.7
1961	2.5	49.9	7.7	26.0	14.6	9.6	7.1	5.2	2.4	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.7
1960	2.3	47.5	7.2	23.9	14.0	9.0	6.6	4.6	2.2	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.6
1959	2.2	46.7	6.9	22.4	13.5	8.9	6.1	4.5	2.2	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.4
1958	2.1	45.3	6.6	21.5	12.5	8.4	5.8	4.3	2.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4
1957	2.0	41.5	6.3	20.9	12.4	8.0	5.8	3.9	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.5
1956	1.9	42.6	6.3	20.0	11.9	8.0	5.8	4.1	2.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.4
1955	1.9	42.1	6.4	20.5	12.1	8.0	5.8	4.2	1.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.3
1954	1.8	36.8	6.3		10.2			4.9	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.3
1953	1.7	43.2	5.9		9.6			4.5	1.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1
1952	1.6	38.2	5.8		9.6			4.4	1.8	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.0
1951	1.6	37.7	5.8		9.7			4.4	1.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.1
1950	1.8	41.9	6.2		10.2			4.8	1.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0
1940	2.0	44.4	7.0		---			---	2.3	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Percent of births to unmarried women by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1940 and 1950-99—Con.

		Age of mother												
		All ages	Under 15 years	15-19 years						20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
Year and race				Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years					
White, non-Hispanic														
Reported/Inferred ¹ :														
1999 ²		22.0	95.5	72.6		84.5		67.5		37.1	13.8	7.8	8.7	10.6
1998		21.9	95.9	71.9	91.2	86.4	81.0	72.5	61.9	36.4	13.6	7.9	8.8	10.9
1997		21.5	93.6	70.9	91.1	85.0	79.6	71.5	60.4	35.3	13.3	7.9	8.8	10.9
1996		21.5	93.9	69.3	89.5	83.8	77.6	69.3	59.1	34.4	13.2	8.4	9.6	12.5
1995		21.2	92.1	67.9	87.6	81.7	75.8	68.0	57.4	33.3	12.7	8.3	9.4	12.2
1994		20.8	92.0	66.6	87.3	80.7	74.3	66.7	56.4	32.5	12.4	8.2	9.4	12.1
1993		19.5	89.8	62.3	82.7	75.8	69.7	62.3	52.6	30.0	11.4	7.8	8.9	11.5
1992 ⁴		18.5	88.1	59.7	81.8	74.7	67.7	59.7	49.9	28.3	10.7	7.5	8.5	11.1
1991 ⁴		18.0	87.6	57.8	81.3	73.6	66.1	58.1	47.8	26.8	10.4	7.3	8.2	10.6
1990 ⁵		16.9	86.4	55.5	80.5	71.6	64.2	55.6	45.9	24.5	9.7	6.9	7.8	10.9
All other														
Race of mother:														
Reported/Inferred ¹ :														
1999 ²		56.6	99.1	93.3		97.0		91.0		73.9	43.9	29.8	28.8	30.1
1998		57.4	99.2	93.6	98.7	97.4	96.4	93.5	89.7	73.8	44.5	30.8	29.5	30.1
1997		57.4	99.1	93.7	98.5	97.5	96.3	93.6	89.3	73.1	44.2	31.3	30.4	31.4
1996		58.2	97.8	92.9	97.4	96.1	95.4	92.8	88.8	72.7	45.2	33.2	32.3	31.2
1995		58.6	97.7	92.6	97.5	96.5	95.0	92.4	88.0	72.2	44.9	33.9	33.0	31.1
1994		59.6	97.9	92.9	97.6	96.4	95.5	92.7	88.3	72.4	45.7	35.0	33.3	31.8
1993		58.6	97.1	90.6	95.9	94.8	93.0	90.4	85.8	70.6	45.1	35.0	33.1	31.2
1992		58.3	96.4	90.4	96.2	94.8	92.8	90.0	85.7	69.3	44.6	34.9	32.6	30.4
1991		58.2	97.0	90.0	96.2	94.6	93.0	89.7	84.7	68.8	44.5	34.7	32.1	30.6
1990		57.1	97.5	89.7	96.5	94.6	92.7	89.4	84.5	66.9	43.5	33.9	30.7	29.0
1989		56.6	97.6	89.8	96.8	95.5	93.2	89.3	83.6	65.6	42.6	33.0	29.8	27.4
1988		55.5	98.1	89.6	97.4	95.8	93.4	89.1	82.5	64.3	41.2	31.4	28.3	27.3
1987		54.7	98.4	89.2	97.3	95.8	92.9	88.3	82.0	63.1	40.0	30.3	27.6	26.7
1986		54.0	98.5	88.3	97.3	95.4	92.1	87.4	81.0	61.8	38.8	29.2	26.4	25.4
1985		52.9	98.3	87.8	97.3	95.1	92.1	86.9	80.3	60.0	37.1	27.9	25.9	26.0
1984		52.3	98.1	87.2	97.1	95.1	91.6	86.5	79.1	58.4	36.0	26.8	25.2	26.0
1983		51.5	98.0	86.5	97.3	94.9	91.2	85.7	77.5	56.7	34.5	25.7	24.1	25.2
1982		50.3	98.0	84.8	96.5	94.1	90.0	83.7	75.0	54.6	32.9	24.6	23.6	24.5
1981		49.9	98.3	84.1	96.9	93.8	89.3	82.9	73.9	53.6	31.9	23.5	23.0	24.7
1980		49.8	98.1	83.5	96.6	93.2	88.8	81.9	73.0	52.7	30.9	22.9	22.6	23.9
Race of child:														
Estimated ³ :														
1980		49.0	100.0	83.4	97.0	94.0	89.2	81.8	72.3	51.8	30.1	22.0	21.3	22.6
1979		48.8	98.5	82.5	96.8	93.3	87.8	80.6	71.7	50.9	28.7	21.5	22.1	23.6
1978		47.6	97.4	80.3	95.4	91.5	85.3	78.0	69.4	48.7	27.0	20.8	21.4	22.2
1977		46.5	98.8	79.4	95.3	90.5	85.0	76.5	67.3	45.7	25.2	20.0	21.1	22.6
1976		45.2	98.9	77.0	94.9	90.3	83.3	72.9	63.1	42.5	23.9	19.5	21.0	22.6
1975		44.2	99.1	74.7	94.3	88.7	80.7	70.5	60.1	40.0	22.7	19.5	20.3	21.1
1974		42.7	97.7	71.7	93.3	86.1	77.4	67.0	56.4	37.2	22.0	19.7	20.9	20.9
1973		41.7	96.8	69.1	91.2	83.5	75.3	62.8	53.8	35.9	21.8	19.4	20.2	20.0
1972		40.3	95.9	67.8	91.2	82.9	73.0	62.5	51.9	34.3	20.7	19.0	19.2	18.9
1971		37.3	95.3	65.2	89.1	81.8	71.6	59.5	49.4	31.6	19.3	17.7	18.5	18.2
1970		34.9	94.2	61.4	87.2	78.2	67.8	55.4	46.2	29.5	18.1	17.3	16.9	16.9
1969		32.5	91.4	57.4	84.6	74.9	63.6	51.7	42.5	27.5	17.1	15.6	15.9	15.9
1968		31.2	90.8	55.0	83.6	72.2	61.2	49.2	39.9	26.4	16.8	15.5	15.7	15.7
1967		29.4	89.2	52.1	80.0	70.0	57.4	46.4	37.6	25.3	16.4	15.2	15.5	13.3
1966		27.7	87.9	50.1	79.0	68.2	54.8	44.4	36.1	23.7	16.8	14.8	14.6	13.7
1965		26.3	86.4	49.2	78.2	66.0	54.5	42.9	34.9	23.0	16.3	14.9	14.9	14.0
1964		24.5	85.6	46.8	75.9	65.2	51.7	40.5	33.2	22.0	15.5	14.1	13.6	12.5
1963		23.6	85.2	45.6	74.0	60.8	50.2	40.9	32.7	21.4	15.1	13.8	13.4	13.5
1962		22.8	84.2	43.9	72.4	60.8	49.1	39.1	31.7	21.3	14.7	13.5	13.7	12.1
1961		22.3	81.7	43.9	71.6	59.2	48.9	39.7	32.0	20.9	14.4	13.2	13.0	12.7
1960		21.6	82.2	42.2	70.1	57.8	46.9	37.6	30.6	20.0	14.1	13.0	12.8	11.7
1959		21.8	80.9	42.7	70.2	58.2	48.0	37.7	30.6	20.2	14.3	13.3	13.0	12.4
1958		21.2	82.5	41.9	70.2	56.9	46.0	37.6	30.2	19.4	14.2	13.1	12.7	12.0
1957		20.7	81.2	40.9	69.0	56.4	44.9	36.1	28.9	19.1	13.6	12.6	12.8	11.7
1956		20.4	79.8	40.5	67.5	56.4	45.3	35.8	28.3	19.0	13.6	12.3	11.7	11.2
1955		20.2	80.1	40.7	67.2	54.9	45.5	36.3	29.3	18.9	13.3	12.0	11.7	10.9

Notes at end of table.

Table 4. Percent of births to unmarried women by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1940 and 1950-99—Con.

		Age of mother												
		All ages	Under 15 years	15-19 years						20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years and over
Year and race				Total	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years					
All other														
Race of child:														
Estimated ³ —Con.														
1954		19.9	79.8	40.0		51.6		31.8		18.5	12.7	12.0	11.4	9.5
1953		19.1	78.0	38.9		50.1		31.0		17.7	12.2	10.9	10.9	10.3
1952		18.3	78.4	38.4		51.4		29.1		16.4	11.6	10.7	10.0	7.9
1951		18.3	77.1	36.6		47.3		28.9		16.3	11.7	10.9	10.3	9.9
1950		18.0	74.6	35.8		47.6		27.5		15.9	11.5	10.2	9.9	9.3
1940		16.8	75.1	34.4		---		---		13.6	8.8	8.0	7.5	7.7
Black														
Race of mother:														
Reported/Inferred ¹ :														
1999 ²		68.8	99.5	95.5		98.3		93.7		80.4	56.7	43.2	40.8	42.0
1998		69.1	99.6	95.7	99.3	98.6	97.8	95.7	92.5	80.3	57.0	43.6	41.5	41.8
1997		69.2	99.4	95.7	99.2	98.6	97.8	95.7	92.1	79.8	56.8	44.1	42.7	43.0
1996		69.8	99.1	95.4	98.7	98.0	97.4	95.5	92.0	79.7	57.4	45.7	44.3	43.5
1995		69.9	99.1	95.2	98.7	98.1	97.1	94.8	91.6	79.1	56.8	46.5	45.3	43.5
1994		70.4	99.1	95.3	98.8	98.0	97.2	95.3	91.7	79.0	57.3	47.4	45.8	44.2
1993		68.7	98.1	92.9	97.0	96.1	94.8	92.7	89.1	76.7	55.8	46.9	44.8	42.5
1992		68.1	97.6	92.6	97.0	96.1	94.5	92.3	88.9	75.2	55.0	46.7	44.7	42.1
1991		67.9	98.1	92.3	97.3	96.0	94.8	92.2	87.8	74.7	54.7	46.5	43.8	42.7
1990		66.5	98.5	92.0	97.6	96.0	94.5	91.8	87.5	72.6	53.3	45.2	42.0	40.0
1989		65.7	98.5	92.1	97.9	96.8	95.0	91.5	86.9	71.2	51.9	43.8	40.6	37.2
1988		64.7	98.9	92.0	98.4	97.2	95.1	91.6	85.7	69.9	50.5	42.3	38.9	37.7
1987		63.4	99.1	91.4	98.2	97.0	94.6	90.7	85.0	68.5	48.6	40.3	37.3	36.5
1986		62.4	99.0	90.7	98.0	96.8	93.9	89.9	84.2	67.2	47.3	38.4	35.6	34.2
1985		61.2	98.8	90.2	98.1	96.5	94.0	89.5	83.4	65.4	45.2	37.0	35.1	34.4
1984		60.3	98.6	89.6	97.8	96.3	93.6	89.1	82.3	63.8	43.8	35.2	33.5	33.4
1983		59.2	98.5	89.0	98.1	96.2	93.3	88.5	80.9	62.1	41.9	33.7	31.8	32.2
1982		57.7	98.4	87.5	97.3	95.4	92.1	86.6	78.6	59.9	40.0	32.2	30.8	31.3
1981		56.9	98.9	86.7	97.7	95.2	91.5	85.7	77.4	58.4	38.6	30.8	29.8	30.7
1980		56.1	98.6	85.7	97.3	94.3	90.4	84.3	75.9	57.0	36.8	29.6	28.4	29.5
Race of child:														
Estimated ³ :														
1980		55.5	100.0	86.3	98.6	95.5	91.4	85.0	75.8	56.4	35.8	28.4	26.5	28.6
1979		54.7	99.4	85.1	97.1	94.5	90.0	83.4	74.9	54.9	33.8	27.2	27.0	27.5
1978		53.2	97.2	82.9	95.8	92.7	87.7	80.9	72.5	52.6	32.0	26.2	26.2	27.9
1977		51.7	98.8	82.0	95.8	92.3	87.0	79.2	70.4	49.5	29.7	25.0	25.5	25.8
1976		50.3	99.1	79.7	95.6	91.7	85.8	76.1	66.3	46.1	28.5	24.0	25.1	25.3
1975		48.8	98.4	76.9	94.8	89.6	82.6	72.6	62.8	43.0	26.8	24.1	23.9	23.1
1974		47.1	97.4	73.7	93.7	87.5	79.1	69.0	58.8	40.1	26.2	23.8	24.1	22.7
1973		45.8	96.4	71.0	91.5	84.9	77.0	64.9	56.1	38.6	25.7	23.3	22.9	23.2
1972		43.9	96.4	69.6	91.6	83.9	74.4	64.4	53.8	37.0	24.1	22.2	21.6	22.0
1971		40.5	95.0	66.9	89.8	82.6	73.2	61.2	51.3	33.9	22.1	20.5	20.7	18.5
1970		37.6	93.5	62.7	88.3	78.6	68.9	57.0	47.8	31.3	20.3	19.6	18.6	18.3
1969		34.9	91.7	58.7	85.1	75.5	64.5	53.1	43.9	29.0	19.0	17.6	17.4	17.1
Hispanic														
Reported/Inferred ¹ :														
1999 ²		42.1	92.9	72.9		81.8		67.3		48.5	32.0	25.0	25.3	27.1
1998		41.6	92.6	72.9	89.6	83.2	78.2	71.1	63.9	47.5	31.2	24.4	24.7	27.5
1997		40.9	91.3	71.6	87.7	82.1	76.7	69.8	62.1	46.1	30.4	24.6	25.7	27.9
1996		40.7	86.4	67.7	80.8	76.5	72.1	66.2	59.9	45.2	31.2	26.0	26.9	29.6
1995		40.8	86.0	67.3	80.7	76.7	71.2	65.9	58.9	45.0	31.1	26.4	27.4	29.0
1994		43.1	89.1	69.7	83.5	78.6	73.8	68.4	61.5	47.0	33.2	28.6	30.3	32.5
1993		40.0	79.9	62.8	75.8	71.3	66.2	61.3	55.9	43.4	31.7	27.5	29.0	31.5
1992 ⁴		39.1	81.8	61.9	76.2	71.2	65.2	60.6	54.4	42.3	30.8	27.2	28.5	30.9
1991 ⁴		38.5	79.8	61.2	77.2	71.3	64.8	59.4	53.7	41.5	30.3	26.6	27.6	30.5
1990 ⁵		36.7	80.6	59.4	75.7	69.4	63.9	57.5	52.0	39.6	28.6	25.5	26.5	28.9

--- Data not available.

¹Data for States in which marital status was not reported have been inferred from other items on the birth certificate and included with data from the reporting States; see Technical notes.²Data are preliminary; see reference 3.³Births to unmarried women are estimated for the United States from data for registration areas in which marital status of mother was reported; see reference 25.⁴Excludes data for New Hampshire which did not report Hispanic origin on the birth certificate.⁵Excludes data for New Hampshire and Oklahoma which did not report Hispanic origin on the birth certificate.

E: National Vital Statistics System.

Table 5. Number of unmarried and married women in selected age groups: United States, 1965-98

[In thousands]

Year	Unmarried women					Married women				
	15-44 years	18-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	15-44 years	18-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years
1998	29,198	3,555	6,363	4,166	3,190	30,914	245	2,315	5,175	6,989
1997	28,586	3,375	6,182	4,175	3,202	31,102	250	2,350	5,224	7,199
1996	28,157	3,283	6,104	4,146	3,239	31,449	272	2,457	5,323	7,469
1995	27,828	3,176	6,143	4,074	3,365	31,614	272	2,652	5,402	7,601
1994	27,503	3,103	6,226	4,027	3,413	31,781	289	2,789	5,531	7,706
1993	27,355	3,068	6,339	4,094	3,437	31,788	304	2,881	5,681	7,721
1992	27,098	3,052	6,363	4,134	3,376	31,921	314	2,981	5,913	7,789
1991	26,865	3,187	6,310	4,150	3,255	32,214	323	3,109	6,175	7,870
1990	26,588	3,422	6,204	4,105	3,147	32,031	397	3,185	6,520	7,824
1989	26,303	3,511	6,180	4,084	3,044	32,064	355	3,293	6,656	7,845
1988	26,132	3,423	6,266	4,051	2,961	31,988	355	3,423	6,786	7,785
1987	25,952	3,320	6,302	4,028	2,843	31,949	369	3,669	6,868	7,702
1986	25,711	3,276	6,409	3,925	2,759	31,719	409	3,849	6,995	7,539
1985	25,287	3,314	6,463	3,811	2,670	31,429	451	4,078	7,012	7,411
1984	24,881	3,428	6,490	3,691	2,542	31,150	486	4,197	7,033	7,285
1983	24,374	3,557	6,351	3,563	2,404	30,985	534	4,411	7,016	7,214
1982	23,864	3,611	6,205	3,388	2,265	30,836	580	4,600	6,987	7,182
1981	23,274	3,602	6,012	3,163	2,181	30,652	646	4,793	6,957	7,282
1980	22,681	3,614	5,798	2,928	1,946	30,152	699	4,857	6,888	6,938
1979	21,979	3,574	5,566	2,697	1,766	30,037	723	4,975	6,900	6,813
1978	21,132	3,505	5,290	2,460	1,567	29,789	764	5,083	6,897	6,638
1977	20,179	3,435	4,955	2,254	1,401	29,635	836	5,197	6,903	6,527
1976	19,240	3,380	4,594	2,067	1,202	29,481	883	5,307	7,090	6,115
1975	18,315	3,257	4,300	1,825	1,108	29,291	921	5,377	6,835	6,065
1974	17,489	3,136	4,017	1,608	1,013	29,119	938	5,398	6,674	5,916
1973	16,781	3,076	3,777	1,457	911	28,809	932	5,421	6,461	5,741
1972	16,250	3,032	3,607	1,336	840	28,338	885	5,414	6,316	5,428
1971	15,729	2,943	3,530	1,185	766	27,862	871	5,497	5,876	5,270
1970	15,121	2,864	3,296	1,096	706	27,316	807	5,158	5,759	5,129
1969	14,553	2,757	3,130	992	655	27,279	827	5,057	5,704	5,113
1968	13,981	2,706	2,904	918	618	27,116	804	4,943	5,537	5,041
1967	13,408	2,661	2,670	840	599	26,979	837	4,911	5,265	4,986
1966	12,967	2,729	2,372	787	563	26,739	885	4,621	5,102	5,016
1965	12,419	---	2,289	750	527	26,636	---	4,557	4,977	5,080

--- Data not available.

SOURCES: Based on data in: Saluter AF. (Also Lugalla TA) Marital status and living arrangements. Annual U.S. Census. U.S. Census Bureau. Current Population Reports; Series P20. Data adjusted by 3-year moving averages of percent unmarried applied to July 1 population estimates, by age, race, and Hispanic origin. Figure for married women are obtained by subtraction of unmarried from total females in each age group. See reference 25.

Table 6. Number of women by age: United States, selected years, 1950–98 and projections to 2010

[In millions]

Year	15–17 years	18–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years
2010	6.137	4.400	10.375	9.948
2005	6.136	4.066	9.889	9.207
2000	5.732	3.938	9.085	8.984
1998	5.694	3.800	8.678	9.341
1995	5.351	3.448	8.795	9.476
1990	4.890	3.819	9.389	10.625
1985	5.409	3.765	10.541	10.823
1980	6.100	4.313	10.655	9.816
1975	6.324	4.141	9.677	8.660
1970	5.726	3.711	8.454	6.855
1965	5.134	3.232	6.846	5.727
1960	4.159	2.427	5.528	5.536
1955	3.333	2.125	5.335	5.947
1950	3.101	2.204	5.876	6.270

SOURCES: 1950–98: U.S. Bureau of the Census. Estimates of the population of the United States and components of change, by age, color, and sex: 1940 and 1950. Current Population Reports; Series P25–98. Also P25, nos. 310, 519, 917, and 1095. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Unpublished census file NESTV98.wk1. Consistent with populations published in: U.S. population estimates, by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: 1990 to 1998. Washington, DC: U.S. Bureau of the Census. Internet release, June 4, 1999. <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/uspov.html>. 2000–2010: U.S. Census Bureau. Projections of the resident population by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: 1999 to 2100. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau. Internet release, January 13, 2000. <http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/natdet-D1A.html>.

Table 7. Percent unmarried, female population by age: United States, selected years, 1950–98

Year	18–19 years	20–24 years	25–29 years	30–34 years	35–44 years
1998	93.6	73.3	44.6	31.3	28.3
1995	92.1	69.8	43.0	30.7	27.7
1990	89.6	66.1	38.6	28.7	25.6
1985	88.0	61.3	35.2	26.5	23.1
1980	83.8	54.4	29.8	21.9	19.1
1975	78.0	44.4	21.1	15.4	15.0
1970	78.0	39.0	16.0	12.1	12.2
1965	73.9	33.4	13.1	9.4	11.8
1960	71.9	31.0	12.8	11.1	12.8
1955	67.9	31.2	14.1	11.6	15.4
1950	68.4	34.4	16.7	13.8	16.3

SOURCES: Based on data in: Saluter AF. (Also Lugaila TA) Marital status and living arrangements. Annual reports. U.S. Census Bureau. Current Population Reports; Series P20. Data adjusted by 3-year moving averages of percent unmarried applied to July 1 intercensal population estimates, by age, race, and Hispanic origin. See reference 25 for additional information.

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Table 8. Birth rates for married women by age and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1980-98

[Rates are live births per 1,000 married women in specified group]

Year and race	Total 15-44 years ¹	15-19 years			20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years ²
		Total	15-17 years	18-19 years					
All races ³									
1998.....	85.7	322.1	276.0	336.9	218.1	162.3	109.4	44.6	8.9
1997.....	84.3	323.0	296.1	331.7	214.2	159.8	105.8	42.7	8.4
1996.....	83.7	344.3	404.8	328.4	209.1	157.0	102.4	41.1	8.0
1995.....	83.7	362.4	445.3	341.0	201.2	154.6	101.5	40.0	7.6
1994.....	83.8	350.5	483.3	321.0	198.0	153.9	99.9	38.9	7.3
1993.....	86.8	388.0	578.5	346.5	208.1	157.5	99.6	38.0	7.0
1992.....	89.0	397.8	579.9	358.8	212.9	160.0	98.5	37.3	6.8
1991.....	89.9	410.4	564.2	377.8	212.5	159.6	96.7	36.9	6.3
1990.....	93.2	420.2	610.9	385.1	216.7	161.8	97.7	36.4	6.2
1989.....	91.9	394.5	538.1	363.0	212.4	157.4	93.8	34.5	6.0
1988.....	90.8	371.0	440.1	353.1	209.3	153.7	91.0	32.2	5.5
1987.....	90.0	358.8	406.3	345.5	202.9	151.0	87.8	30.3	5.1
1986.....	90.7	351.8	429.3	332.8	204.2	147.8	85.7	28.2	4.7
1985.....	93.3	357.4	483.7	327.5	206.2	149.6	84.9	27.7	4.6
1984.....	93.1	356.5	519.1	323.4	205.5	146.3	82.3	26.3	4.5
1983.....	93.6	348.1	471.0	322.1	202.8	145.6	79.1	25.3	4.4
1982.....	96.2	354.0	470.1	327.0	206.2	147.8	77.4	24.2	4.4
1981.....	96.0	331.9	422.0	308.6	201.4	146.5	73.6	22.5	4.3
1980.....	97.0	349.5	486.1	318.0	202.4	145.2	72.5	22.0	4.4
White, total									
1998.....	87.1	347.3	•	•	217.4	165.9	111.5	44.6	8.7
1997.....	85.6	347.1	•	•	214.1	161.5	107.4	42.7	8.3
1996.....	85.2	367.6	•	•	210.7	159.0	104.5	41.3	7.8
1995.....	85.1	369.8	•	•	203.8	156.3	103.2	40.1	7.4
1994.....	85.0	351.6	•	•	200.7	156.4	101.3	38.8	7.1
1993.....	87.6	379.4	•	•	208.2	159.2	100.4	37.7	6.8
1992.....	89.6	389.2	•	•	211.8	161.6	99.1	37.0	6.6
1991.....	90.6	402.6	•	•	211.3	161.3	97.4	36.7	6.1
1990.....	94.1	414.4	•	•	216.3	164.4	98.9	36.1	6.0
1989.....	92.9	386.3	•	•	213.0	160.0	95.2	34.4	5.7
1988.....	91.7	363.7	•	•	209.0	156.4	92.3	31.9	5.2
1987.....	91.1	355.2	•	•	202.1	153.9	89.2	30.0	4.8
1986.....	91.7	345.3	•	•	203.0	149.9	87.0	27.6	4.4
1985.....	94.1	348.5	•	•	204.9	151.3	86.1	27.1	4.3
1984.....	93.7	349.1	•	•	203.6	147.8	83.0	25.7	4.2
1983.....	94.3	343.1	•	•	201.4	147.6	79.6	24.6	4.1
1982.....	96.8	352.7	•	•	205.3	149.9	77.4	23.4	4.1
1981.....	96.6	331.0	•	•	201.0	148.6	73.4	21.6	4.0
1980.....	97.5	352.7	•	•	201.9	147.1	71.9	21.0	4.0
White, non-Hispanic									
1998.....	82.3	338.1	•	•	205.0	162.2	111.8	43.9	8.4
1997.....	80.6	330.4	•	•	200.7	156.8	107.2	41.9	8.0
1996.....	79.9	330.1	•	•	197.1	154.3	104.0	40.3	7.4
1995.....	80.1	348.7	•	•	191.7	152.4	102.9	39.1	7.0
1994.....	80.7	339.7	•	•	190.1	153.7	101.1	38.0	6.7
Black									
1998.....	66.3	182.6	•	•	214.6	122.3	80.4	36.6	7.7
1997.....	65.3	161.0	•	•	213.2	127.5	78.4	35.0	7.0
1996.....	63.3	182.1	•	•	207.5	125.5	73.2	32.7	6.5
1995.....	65.1	321.5	•	•	189.5	125.3	76.0	32.0	6.4
1994.....	66.9	398.6	•	•	185.8	122.3	76.2	31.6	6.3
1993.....	73.7	548.9	•	•	201.1	133.0	79.6	32.6	6.3
1992.....	76.8	511.0	•	•	222.3	132.8	79.2	31.8	6.0
1991.....	77.4	505.7	•	•	219.8	132.4	76.0	30.9	5.8
1990.....	79.7	486.8	•	•	225.2	130.6	75.4	30.1	6.1
1989.....	78.6	499.2	•	•	208.8	130.1	71.5	28.0	6.1
1988.....	76.4	490.2	•	•	207.8	122.2	68.0	26.6	5.6
1987.....	76.1	427.7	•	•	199.4	120.1	66.9	26.1	5.2
1986.....	78.6	489.5	•	•	206.7	122.6	67.2	26.1	5.3
1985.....	81.8	556.5	•	•	212.8	127.9	66.4	26.5	5.2
1984.....	83.2	470.8	•	•	219.0	123.9	67.5	26.0	5.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Birth rates for married women by age and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1980-98—Con.

[Rates are live births per 1,000 married women in specified group]

Year and race	Total 15-44 years ¹	15-19 years			20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years ²
		Total	15-17 years	18-19 years					
Black—Con.									
1983.....	82.7	446.6	*	*	211.7	118.6	65.8	25.7	5.6
1982.....	85.4	382.5	*	*	210.6	119.1	67.1	25.5	5.6
1981.....	85.7	357.8	*	*	203.2	119.7	65.0	24.9	5.7
1980.....	89.2	340.4	*	*	205.7	122.3	67.0	25.7	6.1
Hispanic									
1998.....	110.7	335.1	*	*	251.6	174.2	104.3	46.7	11.1
1997.....	112.5	376.4	*	*	255.1	177.0	102.5	46.1	11.0
1996.....	114.8	439.4	*	*	250.0	173.3	100.9	46.3	10.8
1995.....	113.2	400.2	*	*	241.1	164.9	98.5	45.5	10.9
1994.....	109.3	360.4	*	*	232.7	159.6	95.3	42.7	10.1
1993.....	116.4	393.7	*	*	254.6	162.9	98.7	43.6	10.1
1992.....	119.2	447.7	*	*	254.2	162.8	98.7	44.7	10.4
1991.....	119.6	423.1	*	*	254.1	160.5	98.9	43.9	10.1
1990.....	120.0	414.6	*	*	241.1	162.0	100.5	42.7	10.4

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

¹Rates computed by relating total births to married mothers, regardless of age of mother, to married women aged 15-44 years.²Rates computed by relating births to married mothers aged 40 years and over to married women aged 40-44 years.³Includes races other than white and black.

SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System.

Table 9. Rate of second births to teenagers who have had a first birth: United States, 1985-98

Year	All races	White	All other
1998.....	174.6	172.6	181.8
1997.....	173.7	169.3	180.7
1996.....	173.5	168.9	179.9
1995.....	177.5	172.2	184.4
1994.....	189.6	180.4	208.0
1993.....	203.6	191.1	227.6
1992.....	216.9	201.6	241.7
1991.....	220.9	206.0	250.5
1990.....	218.2	205.4	245.4
1989.....	215.0	200.9	239.6
1988.....	205.3	191.8	227.3
1987.....	195.8	188.5	212.6
1986.....	193.2	186.8	206.6
1985.....	192.1	188.7	202.8

NOTE: Data for "All other" include black, American Indian, and Asian or Pacific Islander teenagers; in 1998, 88 percent of "all other" teenage mothers were black. For additional data, see reference 8.

Technical notes

Sources of data

Vital statistics data on births to unmarried women are based on 100 percent of the birth certificates in all States and the District of Columbia. The data are provided to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program (VSCP). In 1984 and earlier years, the VSCP included varying numbers of States that provided data based on 100 percent of their birth certificates. Data for States not in the VSCP were based on a 50-percent sample of birth certificates filed in those States. Information on sampling procedures and sampling errors for 1984 and earlier years is provided in the Technical Appendix, *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1998, Part I, Natality* (24).

Birth certificate data are available for every year and tabulations of nonmarital births including numbers and percents by various characteristics including maternal age, race, Hispanic origin, parity, and education of the mother, can be provided for States and local areas, an important advantage. In addition to these demographic characteristics, a number of maternal and infant health characteristics are also available.

Birth certificates do not, however, provide information on the mother's marital history, and information on other measures of socioeconomic status, aside from educational attainment, is not available. In addition, information on the fathers of out-of-wedlock births is quite limited, because States do not permit information on the father to be reported on the birth certificate if the parents are not married unless a paternity acknowledgment has been signed. In 1998 information on paternal characteristics was not available for about half of the nonmarital births.

Births to unmarried women are identified by a question on the birth certificates of all but two States. The question on the certificates of 41 of the 48 reporting States asks: "Mother married? (At birth, conception, or any time between) (yes or no)." The remaining States ask a variation of this question, for example, "Mother married to father of child? (yes or no)." A woman is legally married even if she is separated, but is no longer married when the divorce papers are signed. In most States, if the mother is married, the husband's name should be listed as the father, unless a court order provides otherwise.

National estimates of births to unmarried women are based on two methods of determining marital status. For 1994 through 1996, birth certificates in 45 States and the District of Columbia included the question just quoted about the mother's marital status. In 1997 California added a direct question to their birth certificate; thus by 1997, all but four States (Connecticut, Michigan, Nevada, and New York) included a direct question on their birth certificates. Nevada asks for the mother's marital status through the electronic birth registration process but this item is not included on certified or paper copies of the birth certificate. Beginning June 15, 1998, Connecticut discontinued inferring the mother's marital status and added a direct question on mother's marital status to the State's birth certificate.

In the two States (Michigan and New York) that use inferential procedures to compile birth statistics by marital status as of 2000, a birth is inferred as nonmarital if either of these factors is present: a paternity acknowledgment was received or the father's name is missing. In recent years, a number of States have extended their efforts to identify the

fathers when the parents are not married in order to enforce child support obligations. The presence of a paternity acknowledgment therefore is the most reliable indicator that the birth is nonmarital in the States not reporting this information directly; this is now the key indicator in the two nonreporting States.

Since 1980, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has published information on nonmarital births that incorporates reported and inferential data. The inferential procedures represent a substantial departure from the method used before 1980 to prepare national estimates of births to unmarried women, which assumed that the incidence of births to unmarried women in States with no direct question on marital status was the same as the incidence in reporting States in the same geographic division (25). Inferential procedures in current use, however, are quite different from those in use during the 1980's, when there was heavy reliance on a comparison of the surnames of the parents and the child to infer the mother's marital status. The procedures now in use depend, as noted above, on very reliable indicators, namely a paternity affidavit or missing information on the father.

The use of inferential marital status data together with information from a direct question represents an attempt to use related information on the birth certificate to improve the quality of national data as well as to provide data for the individual nonreporting States. Because of the continued substantial increases in nonmarital childbearing throughout the 1980's, the data have been intensively evaluated by the Division of Vital Statistics, NCHS. The results of this evaluation show that trends in birth rates for unmarried women computed on the basis of estimated data and on the basis of inferred data are essentially the same. In addition, an evaluation of the marital status item was conducted in connection with the 1988 National Maternal and Infant Health Survey. Entries on the birth certificate were compared with entries on the mother's questionnaire. That study found an overall agreement on marital status for 94 percent of black mothers and 96 percent of white mothers. It is possible that the accuracy has varied over time as public attitudes on nonmarital childbearing have changed. It is also likely that variation in accuracy exists among different segments of the population (25).

The mother's marital status was not reported in 1998 on 0.04 percent of the birth records. Marital status was imputed as "married" for these records. Information on reporting completeness of other items on the birth certificate is available elsewhere (2, 26).

Michigan and Texas births, 1988-93—The number of births to unmarried women in Michigan was underreported during the years 1988-93, but the greatest undercount, numerically, was for 1990-93. Michigan had separate counts of the numbers of births with paternity acknowledgments, but did not include them with the counts of unmarried women based on the general inferential procedures that they provided to NCHS. The underreporting began in 1988, and was about 25 percent for the years 1988-93. In 1993 NCHS reported 36,326 births to unmarried women in Michigan, 26 percent below the number that included paternity affidavits (49,281 births) (27). Thus, there is a considerable discontinuity in the nonmarital birth data for Michigan from 1993 to 1994, when NCHS reported 48,339 nonmarital births for Michigan. The proportion of nonmarital births reported to NCHS increased from 26 percent to 35 percent.

The number of births to unmarried women in Texas was underreported during the years 1989-93. As a result of legislation passed in 1989, a birth was considered to have occurred to a *married* woman if

the mother provided any information about the father, or if a paternity affidavit had been filed. The measurement of marital status for Texas births improved beginning with the 1994 data year because a direct question on marital status was added to the Texas birth certificate. However, there is considerable discontinuity in the data for Texas from 1993 to 1994. The proportion of births to unmarried mothers increased from 17 to 29 percent.

California births, 1995—In 1995 California changed its methodology for inferring the mother's marital status on the birth certificate. The change affected births to Hispanic mothers, taking into account the naming conventions for this population, especially the use of hyphenated surnames: If the child was given a double surname of the mother's and father's surnames (either entire surnames or portions of the parents' hyphenated surnames), regardless of sequence, the mother's marital status was coded as "Married." This procedure had been in effect many years for Asian mothers. Nonmarital births to Hispanic women in California fell about 17 percent from 1994 to 1995, but nonmarital births declined for other race and ethnic origin groups as well (down 6 percent for non-Hispanic women as a group), indicating that the drop in out-of-wedlock births to Hispanic women did not result from the methodological change alone.

California, Nevada, and New York City births, 1997—Beginning in 1997, the marital status of women giving birth in California and Nevada is determined by a direct question in the birth registration process. Prior to 1997, marital status in California and Nevada was inferred by comparing the surnames of the mother, father, and child. Mother's marital status is still inferred in New York City, but the procedures for inferring this information changed. Beginning in 1997, the mother is assumed to be unmarried if the father's name is missing from the birth certificate, or if a paternity affidavit was filed; these are the same procedures that have been in effect in the balance of New York for many years. Prior to 1997, the inferential criteria in New York City had also included a comparison of the surnames of the mother and father.

The changes in reporting procedures in California and Nevada had little impact on the national totals of out-of-wedlock births. However, there were some effects on data by age subgroup. As a direct result of the reporting changes in California, the national numbers and proportions of nonmarital births tended to increase for women aged 15–24 years and to decline for women aged 25 years and over. When the inferential procedures were in effect prior to 1997, births to older women who had retained their birth surname after marriage were often erroneously inferred as nonmarital because the parents' surnames did not match. For California, the changes in nonmarital birth patterns by age were compensating, so that the overall levels of nonmarital births were only modestly higher in 1997 compared with 1996. There is a similar effect for Nevada, although the percent unmarried based on the direct question is somewhat lower than the percent based on the inferential procedures.

The reporting changes in New York City affected the overall data and the data by age, with large decreases found for all age groups. If these reporting changes had not occurred, statistics for nonmarital births would have been unchanged in New York City between 1996 and 1997 (28, 29). The reporting change in New York City in 1997 resulted in lower numbers and percents of nonmarital births in all population groups, although there was a greater impact on births to women aged 30 years and over and to non-Hispanic white and Asian or Pacific Islander women. The New York City Department of Health has estimated that

nonmarital births to New York City residents were overstated by about 11 to 12,000 births annually from 1994 through 1996 (28, 29). The reporting changes for California, Nevada, and New York City are described in more detail elsewhere (30).

Connecticut births, 1998—Connecticut added a direct question on the mother's marital status to the birth certificate beginning June 15, 1998 (2). Prior to this change, the mother's marital status was inferred in Connecticut by comparing the surnames of the mother, father, and child. National data on nonmarital births were not affected by the change in Connecticut, because the State accounts for less than 1 percent of U.S. births.

Pregnancy data by marital status. Information on pregnancies by marital status is based on the sum of the three outcomes: live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss. The birth data, as noted above, are complete counts of all live births from the birth registration system and published annually by NCHS. Estimates of the numbers and rates of induced abortions are derived from published and unpublished reports from the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) (31–33). The AGI estimates the national number of abortions from surveys it conducts of all known abortion providers but does not collect information on the characteristics of women having abortions. The NCCDPHP gathers data on the characteristics of women having abortions from most State health departments. The AGI totals are distributed by age, race, Hispanic origin, and by marital status, race, and Hispanic origin according to tabulations prepared by NCCDPHP. Information on fetal losses is based on the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) conducted in 1982, 1988, and 1995 by NCHS. The proportion of pregnancies (excluding induced abortion) ending in fetal loss in the 5 years preceding each survey are used. Detailed information on the pregnancy rates included in this report is available elsewhere (8).

Population data on marital status and fertility are collected by the U.S. Census Bureau in the *Current Population Survey* (CPS). The CPS data are collected by the U.S. Census Bureau every month with a sample of about 50,000 households in the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. The survey is primarily designed to provide information on labor force participation, but covers a broad range of social, economic, and demographic characteristics (34). This report draws on detailed information collected in March of every year on the marital status of individuals, on information collected in June on fertility, and on detailed marital and fertility histories collected once every 5 years with funding from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (7, 36). The CPS data provide greater detail on the socioeconomic characteristics of mothers and families, but do not provide data on maternal and infant health characteristics. Estimates of nonmarital childbearing are based on mothers' own reports of children born to them rather than official records. Comparisons of CPS and vital statistics data on births in the United States show a high level of agreement on trends, although exact levels of rates and proportions of out-of-wedlock births may vary (7).

Data from **other national population surveys** have been included in this report. The NSFG, conducted by NCHS, is based on personal interviews with a national sample of women 15–44 years of age in the United States. Its main function is to collect data on factors affecting pregnancy and childbearing. Basic tabulations of data from the 1995 NSFG are available in NCHS reports (8, 14). More information about

the NSFG is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>. Other national population surveys provide information on nonmarital child-bearing. These include the National Survey of Families and Households, conducted in 1987–88 and 1992–94 by researchers at the University of Wisconsin (5); the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and the National Survey of Health and Social Life, conducted in 1993 by researchers at the University of Chicago (35).

Population denominators and computation of rates

Birth rates for unmarried women are based on distributions of the population by marital status as of March of each year provided by the U.S. Census Bureau (36), which have been adjusted to July population levels (37) by the Division of Vital Statistics, NCHS. More details on these adjustments are presented elsewhere (25). Unmarried women include never married, widowed, and divorced women.

In computing birth rates for the Hispanic population, births with origin of mother not stated are included with non-Hispanic births rather than being distributed. Thus, rates for the U.S. Hispanic population are underestimates of the true rates to the extent that the births with origin of mother not stated (1.0 percent of nonmarital births in 1998) were actually to Hispanic mothers. In computing the rates, the census-based populations with origin not stated are imputed. The effect on the rates is believed to be small.

Birth order

As noted above, vital statistics data do not provide information on the mother's marital history. This precludes the ability to distinguish whether previous births to women having nonmarital second and higher order births were also born outside of marriage. However, the data do permit the identification of the mother's marital status for first-time mothers. In 1998, 40 percent of births to first-time mothers were out of wedlock.

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